THE

SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For JANUARY 1798.

LORD VISCOUNT DUNCAN.

ADAM DUNCAN, created, 21ſt October 1797, Lord Viſcount Duncan of Camperdown, and Baron Duncan of Lundie, in the ſhire of Perth, was born 1ſt of July 1731, at Dundee, in Scotland. He was a younger ſon of the ancient and reſpectable family of the Duncans, of Lundie, in the county of Perth, who poſſeſſed an eſtate of about 500l. per annum, which came to our gallant commander about fifteen months ſince, by the death of his elder brother Colonel Duncan. Lord Duncan married a paternal ſiſter of the preſent Lord Advocate of Scotland, and niece of Mr Secretary Dundas, by whom he has ſeveral children.

He early was devoted to the ſervice of his country in the Navy, and on the 25th of February 1761, was made a Captain in the Valiant of 74 guns; on the 24th of September 1787, he was advanced to the poſt of Rear-Admiral; became Vice-Admiral in 1793, and Admiral of the Blue in 1795. He was ſoon noticed by the late Lord Keppel, and was with him at the taking of the Havannah; and when that nobleman was made an Admiral, he choſe his friend Duncan for his Captain, and he was afterwards one of the members on his Court Martial.

Before the late engagement, which has covered him with laurels, Admiral Duncan had not an opportunity of atchieving any very brilliant action. It has been the courſe of his ſervice rather to be uſeful than conſpicuous. He has not been an adventurer or a quack. He was not employed upon exploits calculated either to raiſe his fame, or to fill his purſe. But his merits have been truly appreciated by the judges of the ſervice, and no man has enjoyed through life a more ſtable reputation in public, or a more amiable character in private life.

The promptitude and alacrity with which he carried his fleet to ſea, the ſkill with which he ſeized the proper moment of attack, the bravery and management of the action, though ſplendid, are the leaſt titles to our praiſe. The patience and conſtancy with which he maintained his difficult and painful ſtation during ſo many boiſterous months, and ſtill more the gallantry with which, during the critical period of the mutiny, he kept his poſt in the blockade of the enemy with only three ſhips, when he was abandoned by all the reſt of his ſquadron, are proofs of heroiſm, zeal, and virtue, which will be long remembered with gratitude by his country.

We cannot on the preſent occaſion omit to preſent our readers with the following [illegible] which was made by Lord Dun[illegible] crew on the 3d of June 1797, and which bears every mark of authenticity in its unaffected piety, its ardent patriotiſm, its indignant grief, its ſimple yet impreſſive eloquence, ſo admirably adapted to the hearts and underſtandings of its auditors:

"My lads—I once more call you together with a ſorrowful heart, from what I have lately ſeen; the diſſaffec-

tion of the fleets; I call it *diſſaffection*, for the crews have *no* grievances. To be deſerted by my fleet, in the face of an enemy, is a diſgrace which I believe never before happened to a Britiſh Admiral; nor could I have ſuppoſed it poſſible. My greateſt comfort under God is, that I have been ſupported by the officers, ſeamen, and marines, of *this* ſhip; for which, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, I requeſt you to accept my ſincere thanks. I flatter myſelf much good may reſult from your example, by bringing thoſe deluded people to a ſenſe of the duty which they owe not only to their King and Country, but to themſelves.

"The Britiſh Navy has ever been the ſupport of that liberty which has been handed down to us by our anceſtors, and which I truſt we ſhall maintain to the lateſt poſterity; and that can only be done by unanimity and obedience. This ſhip's company, and others who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their loyalty and good order, deſerve to be, and doubtleſs *will be*, the favourites of a grateful country; they will alſo have, from their inward feelings, a comfort which will be laſting, and not like the fleeting and falſe confidence of thoſe who have ſwerved from their duty.

"It has often been my pride with you to look into the Texel, and ſee a foe which dreaded coming out to meet us;—my pride is *now* humbled indeed!—my feelings are not eaſily to be expreſſed!—our cup has overflowed, and made us wanton. The all-wiſe Providence has given us this check as a warning, and I hope we ſhall improve by it. On him then let us truſt, where our *only* ſecurity can be found. I find there are many good men among us; for my own part I have had full confidence of *all* in this ſhip: and once more beg to expreſs my approbation of your conduct.

"May God who has thus far conducted you, continue to do ſo; and may the Britiſh Navy, the glory and ſupport of our country, be reſtored to its wonted ſplendour, and be not only the bulwark of Britain, but the *Terror of the World.*

"But this can only be effected by a ſtrict adherence to our duty and obedience; and let us pray that the Almighty God may keep us in the right way of thinking.

"God bleſs you all."

This ſpeech is ſaid to have ſo affected the crew, that ſcarce a dry eye was to be ſeen on their retiring.

Lord Duncan has been through life diſtinguiſhed by unaſſuming and unobtruſive ſimplicity of manners. With a moſt elegant perſon he ever had a manly mind. He is full ſix feet three inches high; but with a character of muſcular ſtrength and proportion that ſets off the height: though eaſy in his carriage he is erect, and it is ſcarcely poſſible to conceive a perſon more naturally graceful. *Europ. Mag.*

ANECDOTES OF WILLIAM EARL OF MANSFIELD,

CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND.

1746. A fair occaſion offered, about this period of time, for Mr Murray to manifeſt his love of his profeſſion, and an ardent deſire to lay a better foundation in one of our univerſities. The firſt Duke of Newcaſtle was the warm friend and patron of Mr Murray. The civil law profeſſorſhip in the univerſity of Oxford being then vacant, Mr Murray expreſſed an anxious wiſh, that an able profeſſor might be ſought for. Dr Jenner was the perſon thought off by his Grace, yet he paid Mr Murray the compliment of aſking him, if he could recommend any gentleman who would fill it with greater ability. Antecedent to the eſtabliſhment of the Vinerian profeſſorſhip, the late Mr Juſtice Blackſtone, who was then at the bar, and had given proofs that he poſſeſſed thoſe qualifications, was by Mr Murray introduced and warmly recommended to the Duke of Newcaſtle, who conſidered

dered it as part of his duty to probe a little the political principles of the new candidate, by addreſſing Mr Blackſtone, 'Sir, I can rely on your friend Mr Murray's judgment as to your giving law-lectures in a good ſtyle, ſo as to benefit the ſtudents; and I dare ſay, that I may ſafely rely on you, whenever any thing in the political hemiſphere is agitated in that univerſity, you will, ſir, exert yourſelf in our behalf.' The anſwer was, 'Your Grace may be aſſured that I will diſcharge my duty in giving law-lectures to the beſt of my poor abilities.' 'Aye! aye! replied his Grace haſtily, and your duty in the other branch too.' Unfortunately for the new candidate, he only bowed aſſent; and a few days afterward he had the mortification to hear that Dr Jenner was appointed the civil-law profeſſor. Nothing leſs than the love of ſcience could, under theſe circumſtances, have induced Mr Murray and ſome other friends of Mr Blackſtone, ſtrongly to recommend and perſuade him to ſit down at Oxford, and to read law-lectures to ſuch ſtudents as were diſpoſed to attend him. The plan was not only attended with profit and pleaſure in the firſt inſtance, but ſoon afterward happily ſuggeſted the idea to the mind of Mr Viner to eſtabliſh a real law-profeſſorſhip in the univerſity of Oxford; and who ſo proper to fill it with eclat, and add luſtre to the inſtitution, as Mr Blackſtone, whoſe Commentaries on the laws of England, on their firſt appearance in the world, drew this high tribute of reſpect and approbation from Lord Mansfield? On a brother-peer's having aſked him, as a friend, what books he would adviſe his ſon to read, who was determined to be a lawyer, the chief juſtice replied, 'My good Lord, till of late I could never, with any ſatisfaction to myſelf, anſwer that queſtion; but, ſince the publication of Mr Blackſtone's Commentaries, I can never be at a loſs. *There* your ſon will find analytical reaſoning diffuſed in a pleaſing and perſpicuous ſtyle. *There* he may imbibe imperceptibly the firſt principles on which our excellent laws are founded, and THERE he may become acquainted with an uncouth crabbed author, Coke upon Littleton, who has diſappointed and diſheartened many a *Tyro*, but who cannot fail to pleaſe in a modern dreſs.'

Either as an embelliſhment to the preſent work, which, in its nature, and in order to be uſeful, muſt in general be grave and ſerious, or as a relaxation to the mind from the fatigue of conſtant attention to one uniform ſyſtem of dry law, the author is deſirous to introduce occaſionally a few well-authenticated anecdotes; if an apology for ſuch relaxation ſhould be deemed neceſſary, it is to be hoped that the following *argumentum ad hominem* will be accepted as ſuch. A very able and praiſe-worthy judge, the late Sir Joſeph Yates, was accuſtomed to declare, that whenever intenſe application to any legal ſtudies became burdenſome or unpleaſant, he changed the ſcene, read a few pages of Dean Swift's Works, which not only relieved him while he read, but alſo ſent him back to his dry law in perfect good humour. In imitation of a character ſo diſtinguiſhed and ſo pure, and without any deſign to depreciate the pre-eminence, I had almoſt ſaid the ſovereignty of the Dean of St Patrick, in the regions of wit and fancy, the following anecdotes are attempted to be placed in their true light of manifeſting, that a grave judge may with impunity now and then introduce the golden rule of Horace, *Dulce eſt deſipere in loco.*

An anecdote having appeared in the ſummer, 1760, in ſeveral public prints, purporting, that, early in Lord Manſfield's chief juſticeſhip, a certain diligent book-read advocate had taken up a conſiderable portion of the time of the court, in producing ſeveral black-

letter cafes, to prove the genuine conſtruction of an old woman's will:

His Lordſhip heard him with great patience for ſome time; at laſt he interrupted and quite broke the ſtring of his learning, by aſking him, 'whether he thought the old woman had ever heard of theſe cafes? and, if not, what common ſenſe and juſtice muſt ſay to that matter?' He therefore immediately gave judgement in favour of common ſenſe againſt the black-letter-law, to the full ſatisfaction of the whole court.

In private life, it may truly be ſaid, that Lord Mansfield had the facility and happy art of embelliſhing the moſt trivial circumſtances with elegance, of enlivening converſation with eaſe and pleaſantry, and of ſupporting every narration with ſtrict attention to truth.

In his convivial converſation, he was particularly excellent. His general and almoſt univerſal knowledge of men and things preſented a conſtant and copious ſupply of familiar dialogue and diſcourſe. His ſallies of pleaſantry were innocent, and wounded no man; his ſentences of obſervation were judicious and ſolid. His particular friends could eaſily illuſtrate this part of his character by a thouſand familiar inſtances; the few which the author begs leave to ſelect occaſionally, as they ſerve to illuſtrate his character for eaſe and pleaſantry, were *impromptu's*, delivered on the ſpur of the occaſion, and ſome of them are well known to his ſurviving friends.

One of the right reverend bench having very charitably eſtabliſhed an alms houſe, at his own expence, for twenty-five poor women; Mr Murray, in his juvenile days, was applied to for an inſcription to be placed over the portal of the houſe; upon which he took up his pencil, and immediately wrote the following;

Under this roof
the Lord Biſhop of ——
keeps
no leſs than 25 women.

This witticiſm probably had its riſe from a then recent fact, which reflected great honour on the late Sir Walter Blackett, baronet, who was at that time the faſt friend of, and much attached to, Mr Murray, and alſo to Mr Booth, the conveyancer. Sir Walter ſtated his caſe to them in Lincoln's inn, and pointed out the dilemma in which a friend in the north (Mr Davidſon) had drawn him, by leaving 1500l. to be laid out, under the direction of Sir Walter, in building a ſuit of alms-houſes for *twelve old women*, near Newcaſtle upon Tyne. Sir Walter added, how unconfortable theſe poor creatures will be placed in a row, without any human being to look upon. What think you, my friends and counſellors, if I run up another wing for twelve old batchelors? The learned counſel agreed in opinion, that the charitable inſtitution would thereby be freed from partiality, and be abundantly more comfortable and more complete.

The ſuperſtructures were ſoon raiſed, and according to common fame, in a year or two afterward, ſeveral of the ancient maidens and old batchelors looked with great complacency on each other, ſo as to occaſion a few marriages to take place, and to make convenient room for other inmates and inhabitants under theſe hoſpitable habitations.

(*To be continued.*)

ALEXANDER SELKIRK, or ROBINSON CRUSOE.

Alexander Selkirk, rendered famous by Monſ. de Foe, who writes his adventores under the name of Robinſon Cruſoe was born in Largo, county of Fife, in 1676. Having gone to ſea in his youth, and in the year 1673, being ſailing maſter of the ſhip Cinque Ports, Captain Stradling, bound for the South Seas, he was put on ſhore, on the iſland of Juan Fernandez, as a puniſh-

punishment for mutiny. In that solitude he remained 4 years and 4 months, from which he was at last relieved, and brought to England by Captain Woods Rogers. He had with him in the island his clothes and bedding, with a firelock, some powder, bullets and tobacco, hatchet, knife, kettle, his mathematical instruments, and Bible. He built two huts of Pimento trees, and covered them with long grass, and, in a short time, lined them with skins of goats, which he killed with his musket, so long as his powder lasted, (which at first was but a pound); when that was spent he caught them by speed of food. Having learned to produce fire, by rubbing two pieces of wood together, he dressed his victuals in one of his huts, and slept in the other, which was at some distance from his kitchen. A multitude of rats often disturbed his repose, by gnawing his feet, and other parts of his body, which induced him to feed a number of cats for his protection. In a short time they became so tame, that they would lie about him in hundreds, and soon delivered him from the rats, his enemies. Upon his return, he declared to his friends, that nothing gave him so much uneasiness, as the thoughts, that when he died, his body would be devoured by those very cats he had with so much care tamed and fed. To divert his mind from such melancholy thoughts, he would sometimes dance and sing among his kids and goats, at other times retire to his devotion. His clothes and shoes were soon worn, by running through the woods. In the want of shoes he found little inconvenience, as the soles of his feet became so hard, that he could run any where without difficulty. As for his clothes, he made for himself a coat and cap of goats skins, sewed with little thongs of the same, cut into a proper form with his knife. His only needle was a nail. When his knife was worn to the back, he made others as well as he could, of some iron hoops that had been left on shore, by beating them thin, and grinding them on stones. By long seclusion from intercourse with men, he had so far forgot the use of speech, that the people on board Captain Rogers' ship could scarcely understand him, for he seemed to speak his words by halves. The chest and musket which Selkirk had with him on the island, are now in the possession of his grand-nephew, John Selkirk, weaver in Largo.

ANECDOTES AND GLEANINGS.

HABITATIONS OF POET

When Virgil first came to Rome, he had no lodging at all. he afterward possessed a fine house at Rome, and a villa at Naples. And Horace, says Swift, I am sure, kept his coach, Lucan and Silius Italicus dwelt in marble palaces, and had their gardens adorned with the most exquisite statues of Greece. Of modern poets, Trissino and Voltaire seem to have had the most superb houses. The former, who was a skilful architect, as well as poet, was rich enough to build a palace, from a design of his own, under the direction of the celebrated Palladio. And the chateau of Voltaire, at Verney, has been visited by so many Englishmen, as to render a description of it superfluous. Mr Harte relates to me, that Pope, in one of their usual walks together, desired him to go with him to a house in the Haymarket, where he would shew him a curiosity. On being admitted by an old woman who kept a little shop, and going up three pair of stairs into a small room: "In this garret," said Pope, "Addison wrote his Campaign.',

DANIEL DE FOE.

She saw old Prynne in reasless Daniel shine,
And Eusden eke out Blackmore's endless line.

I am sorry, says Dr Warton, to find De Foe placed in such company.

He was a writer of uncommon genius and fertility of fancy. Witneſs his Robinſon Cruſoe; in which a wonderful reach of invention is diſplayed; and his Hiſtory of the Plague in London, which for a long time impoſed on Dr Mead, who thought it genuine; and his Memoirs of a Cavalier, a favourite book of the great Earl of Chatham's, who ſpoke of it as the beſt account of the civil wars extant, and who, when he was at laſt convinced that it was all a fiction, cried out

——————Sic extorta voluptas,
Et demptos per vim mentis gratiſſimus error.

Among other entertaining works, De Foe wrote, in priſon, in 1703, a Review, conſiſting of a Scandal Club, as he entitled it, on queſtions of theology, morals, trade, language, poetry, love, &c. which, Mr Chalmers thinks, gave a hint for the plan of the Tatler and Spectator.

BOOKSELLERS AND AUTHORS.

Gay gained a conſiderable ſum by his writings. Enough has been ſaid of Milton's ſelling his Paradiſe Loſt for ten pounds. Tonſon gave Dryden only two hundred and fifty guineas for ten thouſand verſes to make up the volume of his fables. Thomſon ſold his "Winter" to Miller for only three guineas. He gained but little more for his "Summer." The year after, when he roſe in reputation, 1728, Andrew gave him fifty guineas for his "Spring." This was his firſt connexion with Thomſon, whom he ever after honoured and aſſiſted if called upon. Dr Young received of Dodſley two hundred guineas for the firſt three Night Thoughts. Dr Akenſide one hundred and twenty guineas for his Pleaſures of Imagination; and Mallet the ſame ſum for his Amyntor and Theodora. Some modern booksellers behave to authors with much more liberality and generoſity.

TITLES OF PERIODICAL ESSAYS.

Addiſon wrote fifty two papers in the Guardian, the plan of which was far inferior to that of the Spectator; for what had the Guardian or the Sparkler to do with ſubjects of criticiſm and philoſophy? The ſecret charm of the Spectator conſiſted in intereſting the reader in the characters and actions of the ſeveral members of the club, and conſequently in the dramatic caſt given to thoſe eſſays. The ſucceſſors of the Spectator, even thoſe that have been moſt popular, ſeem to have been unfortunate in the Titles they aſſumed. Who would ſuppoſe that the Rambler (il Vagabondo as the Italian tranſlator termed it) was a ſeries of the graveſt and moſt moral eſſays? The Adventurer, it ſeems, alluded to its being a kind of knight-errantry to attack the follies and vices of men. The Connoiſſeur, though you would naturally expect it from the title, yet contained nothing that related to the fine arts. The World was an appropriated and happy title, becauſe it pointed out the chief deſign of writing on the topics of the day, and the living manners of the times. And this ſignificant title was given to it, by the ſenſible publiſher of it, Mr Robert Dodſley, at a meeting of ſeveral of the author's friends, who univerſally gave the preference to his propoſal againſt their own.

ORIGINAL LETTERS
FROM MR BURKE TO MR MURPHY.

MY DEAR SIR,

I WAS in the country when your moſt valuable and moſt acceptable preſent was left at my houſe. Since my return, really and literally an inſtant of time has not been my own; except the hours in which I have ſought in vain for ſleep. I have paſſed almoſt every hour in Weſtminſter Hall and its purlieus. From nine o'clock yeſterday morning, until paſt ſix in the evening, I did not ſtir from thence. Let this

this disagreeable employment be my excuse, for not having till now discharged the pleasing duty of making my acknowledgements to you, for the great honour you have been pleased to confer upon me, with a promptitude equal to the warmth and sincerity of my gratitude. To have my name united with yours, and that of Tacitus, is a distinction to which I am, and ever shall be truly sensible. The value of the gift is to my feelings infinitely enhanced, when it comes from a man of talents, virtue, and independent spirit, which seeks for what aspires to be congenial to it, and does not aim to connect itself with greatness, riches, or power.

I thank you for the partial light in which you regard my weak endeavours, for the conservation of that ancient order of things in which we were born, and in which we have lived, neither unhappily nor disgracefully, and (you at least) not unprofitably to your country. As to me, in truth I can claim nothing more than good intention in the part I have to act. Since I am publicly placed, (however little suitably to my abilities or inclination) I have struggled to the best of my power against two great public evils, growing out of the most sacred of all things, Liberty and Authority. In the writings which you are so indulgent as to hear, I have struggled against the Tyranny of Freedom; in this, my longest and last struggle, I contend against the Licentiousness of Power.—When I retire from this, successful or defeated, your work will either add to my satisfaction, or furnish me with comfort. *Securiorem et ulteriorem, materiam senectuti seposui.* I quote the original, as I have not yet had time enough to turn to that part of your translation, where the same thought is certainly not less happily expressed.

I am, Sir, with most sincere respect affection, EDM. BURKE.

Duke street, Sunday,
May 26, 1793.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE not been as early as, to all appearance, I ought to have been, in my acknowledgments for your present. I received it in due time; but my delay was not from the want of a due sense of the value of what you have sent, or of the honour you have done me in sending it. But I have had some visitors to whom I was obliged to attend: and I have had some business to do, which, though it is not worth your while to be troubled with it, occupied almost every hour of the time I could spare from my guests: until yesterday it was not in my power so much as to open your Tacitus.

I have read the first book thorough, besides dipping here and there into other parts. I am extremely delighted with it. You have done what hitherto, I think, has not been done in England: you have given us a translation of a Latin prose writer, which may be read with pleasure. It would be no compliment at all to prefer your translation to the last, which appeared with such a pomp of patronage. Gordon was an author fashionable in his time, but he never wrote any thing worthy of much notice, but that work; by which he has obtained a kind of eminence in bad writing: so that one cannot pass it by with mere neglect. It is clear to me that he did not understand the language from which he ventured to translate: and that he had formed a very whimsical idea of excellence with regard to ours. His work is wholly remote from the genius of the tongue, in its purity, or in any of its jargons. It is not English, nor even his native Scotch. It is not fish nor flesh, nor good red herring; yours is written with facility and spirit, and you do not often depart from the genuine native idiom of the language. Without attempting, therefore, to modernize terms of art, or to disguise ancient customs under new habits, you have contrived things in such a manner that your readers will find themselves

selves at home. The other translators do not familiarize you with ancient Rome; they carry you into a new world. By their uncouth modes of expression, they prevent you from taking an interest in any of its concerns. In spite of you, they turn your mind from the subject, to attend with disgust to their artificial manner of treating it; from such authors we can learn nothing. I have always thought the world much obliged to good translators like you. Such are some of the French. They who understand the original, and those who are under the smallest obligations to you: it is a great satisfaction to see the sense of one good author in the language of another. He is thus after [illegible]. Seeing your author in a new point of view, you become better acquainted with him; his thoughts make a new and a deeper impression on the mind. I have always recommended it to young men, on their studies, that when they had made themselves thorough masters of a work in the original, then (but not till then) to read it in a translation, if in any modern language a readable translation was to be found. What I say of your translation is really no more than very cold justice to my sentiments of your great undertaking. I never expected to see so good a translation. I do not pretend that it is wholly free from faults; but at the same time I think it more easy to discover them than correct them. There is a style which daily gains ground amongst us, which I should be sorry to see farther advanced by the authority of a writer of your just reputation. The tendency of the mode to which I allude, is to establish two very different idioms amongst us, and to introduce a marked distinction between the English that is written, and the English that is spoken. This practice, if grown a little more general, would confirm this distemper, such I must think it, in our language, and perhaps render it incurable.

From this feigned manner of *falsetto*, as I think the musicians call something of the same sort in singing, no one modern historian, Robertson only excepted, is perfectly free. It is assumed, I know, to give dignity and variety to the style; but whatever success the attempt may sometimes have, it is always obtained at the expence of purity, and of the graces that are natural and appropriate to our language. It is true, that when the exigence calls for auxiliaries of all sorts, and common language becomes unequal to the demands of extraordinary thoughts, something ought to be conceded to the necessities which make "Ambition Virtue;" but the allowances to necessities ought not to grow into a practice. Those portents and prodigies ought not to grow too common. If you have here and there (much more rarely, however, than others of great and not unmerited fame), fallen into an error, which is not that of too dull or careless, you have an author who is himself guilty, in his own tongue, of the same fault, in a very high degree. No author thinks more deeply, or paints more strongly; but he seldom or ever expresses himself naturally. It is plain that, comparing him with Plautus and Terence, or the beautiful fragments of Publius Syrus, he did not write the language of good conversation. Cicero is much nearer to it. Tacitus, and the writers of his time, have fallen into that vice, by aiming at a poetical style. It is true, that eloquence in both modes of rhetoric is fundamentally the same; but the manner of handling is totally different, even where words and phrases may be transferred from the one of these departments of writing to the other.

I have accepted the licence you have allowed me, and blotted your book in such a manner that I must call for another for my shelves. I wish you would come hither for a day or two. Twenty coaches come almost

to

to our very door. In an hour's converſation we can do more than in twenty ſheets of writing. Do come and make us all happy. My affectionate compliments to our worthy Doctor. Pray believe me, with moſt ſincere reſpect and regard, My dear Sir,

Your obedient humble ſervant,

EDM. BURKE.

Beaconſfield, Dec. 8. 1793.*

OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS,

ON THE FORMATION OF CALCAREOUS EARTH.

CALCAREOUS Earth is found in all parts of the globe that we are yet acquainted with, and probably compoſes nearly a ſixth part of the whole. In whatever part of the earth it is found, it generally makes its appearance in regular lamina, unleſs it has been diſturbed by earthquakes, volcanoes, or other convulſions of nature. Its characteriſtic is to effervesce with acids. When we examine particularly into the nature of it, we always find it to be compoſed of the exuviæ of animals, often of complete ſhells. In the South Seas there are iſlands compoſed entirely of corals and madrepores; and it is a curious fact, that a ſoft jelly-like ſubſtance, ſuch as ſhells originate from, ſhould at laſt reſolve into a ſubſtance ſo hard as *marble*: yet it is certain that iſlands and mountains are the production of *life*, and that the ſame life which firſt formed theſe maſſes ſtill continues to encreaſe them, or to form others; even the far-famed Rock of Gibraltar is of animal production. From the above it appears that animals have a power, or proceſs, by which they are enabled to form calcareous earth out of their blood; and it is certain that ſome animals poſſeſs this power in a more eminent degree than others: an oyſter, for inſtance, is able to form more of this ſubſtance in proportion to its ſize than a man or a horſe, although by the moſt exact analyſis of the blood and fleſh of oyſters, we are unable to extract one particle of calcareous earth. If we analize them indeed by a very ſtrong heat, we may obtain both *calcareous earth* and *iron*; although none of theſe ſubſtances will be found if the analyſis is made by reagents, *i. e.* marine acid, aqua fortis, &c. from which I infer, that if any calcareous earth is found in them, it is formed during the decompoſition. All ſhell fiſh will live, grow, and multiply, while fed upon nothing but pure water. Having ſaid that all calcareous earth is the production of life, it remains to ſhew how this earth, when expoſed in certain ſituations, is capable of aſſuming that ſtony hardneſs which enables it to take ſo fine a poliſh, and how the particles of this earth are brought into ſo cloſe a contact. We have ſaid that all calcareous earth which we find in this globe has been formed by animal life; and that we have reaſon to believe that wherever this particular earth is to be found, although it ſhould be on the top of the higheſt mountain, it muſt have been one time or other covered with water, and inhabited by an innumerable multitude of animals, which, ſmall as they may ſeem, have formed the materials of this ſtupendous fabrick. The method which nature purſues in cauſing theſe looſe exuviæ to aſſume a ſtony hardneſs, might puzzle us not a little, did not the two following facts ſufficiently elucidate it: firſt, water is of itſelf capable of diſſolving a ſmall proportion of calcareous earth; and if this is in any degree impregnated with fixed air, the quantity of calcareous matter which was before ſaturated with fixed air. All animal ſubſtances, when in the act of putrefaction, give out a certain portion of fixed air, which being abſorbed by the water, the latter is thus rendered capable

* Theſe two letters were written to Mr Murphy, on his dedicating his tranſlation of Tacitus to Mr Burke.

capable of diſſolving a conſiderable portion of the calcareous matter which was before ſaturated with fixed air. When the water, by being expoſed to the influence of the air, has evolved the fixed air which the putrifaction of the dead animals had produced, the calcareous earth which it held in ſolution will be depoſited among the ſhells; and being in exceeding ſmall particles, its coheſive powers will be increaſed in proportion, and the depoſition of theſe infinitely ſmall particles taking place, will ſufficiently account for the hard and firm texture of marble. Pieces of wood are often ſeen turned into ſtone by the decay of the ligneous particles, and the depoſition of the ſtony. This will take place in a ſlower manner, though the water contain no fixed air; water itſelf being capable of diſſolving calcareous matter, which it may depoſit in like manner. To prove that the putrefaction of animal matter, and that living animals themſelves are capable of producing fixed air, and impregnating the water with it, I ſhall relate the following experiments.

Experiment the firſt.

Being deſirous to ſee in what manner fiſh altered the water which they inhabit, and the cauſe of their ſo ſoon dying when excluded from a free circulation of freſh water, I put eight minnows into a baſon of water from the pump, containing about three quarts: the fiſh continued to live for two days, on the third they died: I took them out, and on pouring cauſtic lime water into the baſon, a precipitation of chalk took place, whereupon I began to ſuſpect that either the water contained an acid in its compoſition, or fixed air, which occaſioned the lime to precipitate. I therefore repeated the experiment, having firſt aſcertained that the water I uſed did not contain either an acid or fixed air, as it made no precipitation of the lime before the fiſh were put into it; the reſult was the ſame as the former. From this experiment we ſee that animals, independent of putrefaction, may, by creating carbonic acid, aſſiſt towards the formation of limeſtone. I think what has been ſaid ſufficiently accounts for the formation of calcareous earth, with all its varieties of *marle, limeſtone, marbles, &c. &c.*

When this calcareous earth exiſts in the neighbourhood of a volcano, there will moſt probably be a formation of *alabaſter*, by the union of the ſulphuric acid with the part of the calcareous earth which forms ſelenite: alabaſter being compoſed of a ſulphuric ſelenite and calcareous earth in its mild ſtate: when it is burnt it is called the *Plaſter of Paris*, and is too well known to need any deſcription. Alabaſter, when burnt and mixed with water, has the remarkable property of ſudden chryſtalization. The mixed nature of Plaſter of Paris being admitted, accounts for the phenomena exhibited in its burning, extenſion, and ſudden hardening. When this earthy ſalt is burnt, the ſelenite loſes its wall of cryſtalization, and becomes friable: the calcareous ſpar at the ſame time being converted into lime by the loſs of its acid. In this ſtate the plaſter is acrid and alkaline, and changes the ſyrup of violets into a green; unites with acids without effervescence; and loſes its goodneſs by being expoſed to the air, and attracting the carbonic acid from it. It abſorbs water with avidity, and as to the ſolidity it takes ſo oppoſite to common lime; it is owing to this circumſtance, that when the lime has abſorbed as much water as is neceſſary for its extinction, this ſelenite, which is interſperſed between the particles of the lime, ſuddenly cryſtalizes, and produces the ſame effect as ſand which is interſperſed between the particles of the lime, in order to give the whole ſolidity. I think the above is all that is neceſſary to be ſaid to ſhew that calcareous earth is the production of animal life.

By Mr Smith.

THE HISTORY OF KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING, AND TASTE, IN GREAT BRITAIN,

DURING THE COMMONWEALTH AND USURPATION OF CROMWELL.

(From the New Annual Regiſter, for 1796.)

IT has frequently been remarked, that, in periods of public commotion and of civil anarchy, the nobleſt energies of the human mind are often called forth to action; and if we have to witneſs much calamity, vice, and horror, the proſpect is ſomewhat cheered by examples of virtue uncontaminated by intereſt, and of genius unfettered by timidity. Yet the ſhort ſpace of time which elapſed from the depoſition of the firſt Charles to the acceſſion of his ſon, preſents us with not many names with eminence in literature, which were unnoticed in the preceding period. There was certainly a large maſs of learning depoſited at this time in various hands; but that learning was obſcured by pedantry; and the ſcience, as well as the morals of the age, was perverted by fanaticiſm. It was an age of projects, but thoſe projects partook of all the wildneſs of anarchy; and hiſtory and politics were debaſed, as they too commonly are, by a devotion to party.

The rapid tranſition of the human mind from torpid ignorance to reſtleſs ſpeculation, from ſtupidity to error, was, perhaps, never more ſtrongly inſtanced than in thoſe ages which immediately ſucceeded the Reformation. A blind devotion to the papal decrees, an inverſion to inquiry, and indifference to knowledge and to taſte, characteriſed ſucceſſive ages and generations, of which ſcarcely a monument remains, except upon the tables of chronology. An accidental diſcovery, the invention of printing, ſeems to have awakened the European world from its mental lethargy; and no ſooner was religious liberty reſtored, and the ſcriptures reſcued from the ſtrong and ſterile graſp of the papal hierarchy, than a ſcene of confuſion enſued—every man heard them in his own tongue? or, more properly, he forced them to ſpeak a language congenial to the caprices of his own imagination.

The ardour for theological ſpeculation was ſomewhat repreſſed, as we have already ſeen, by the arbitrary interference of government during the reigns of Eliſabeth and her immediate ſucceſſor. But theſe impediments were no ſooner removed by the downfall of Charles, and the ſevere, though not wholly unmerited, puniſhment of Laud, than the utmoſt latitude was given to the excurſions of the imagination; and there was ſcarcely a doctrine or text of ſcripture which could be perverted, that did not ſerve as the foundation on which ſome claſs of enthuſiaſts erected a new form of religion. The diſciples of Calvin were divided into various parties; many of them embraced with avidity the tenets of the Anabaptiſts, and a ſtill larger party of the old puritans diſcovered that even the preſbyterian church was not ſufficiently democratical; that the church of Corinth had a complete independent juriſdiction within itſelf; and they determined, in conſequence, that every particular and diſtinct congregation of Chriſtians muſt have a full power to regulate all its own concerns, without the aid of either biſhops or ſynods, and independent of all connection with their churches. This party, from their particular tenets, were termed Independents; and with this party it was, that the artful and ambitious Cromwell thought proper to connect himſelf. Where there exiſts no regular principle of aſſociation, where there is no connected government or ſubordination in any ſociety, that ſociety, whether civil or religious, will more readily be reduced under the yoke of ſlavery. The preſbyterian party, under Cromwell, there-

sore, left all its weight and importance in the state; some of its members were subjected to the severity of persecution; the Independents of all the greater sects, were alone admitted to the favour of the Protector, while some of the weaker and least numerous of the other sects enjoyed perfect toleration, if not protection, from the court.

It is difficult to stop the progress of innovation, and it is most difficult in religious speculation. The Independents themselves divided, after some time, into a number of subordinate sects; and some of them, by interpreting the obscure parts of scripture in a literal sense, embraced and propagated the wildest doctrines, and the most absurd delusions. The Ranters received their name from the violence of their extemporaneous harangues, and from their ridiculous and unnatural gesticulation. The Antinomians, not content with rejecting entirely the Jewish dispensation, and cancelling even the moral precepts of the law, extended the doctrine of justification by the death of Christ to an unwarrantable extreme, and asserted that justification precedes the birth of the individual, and that it is impossible that by any part of his conduct he can become obnoxious to future punishment. The Fifth-monarchy-men, exulting in the overthrow of temporal sovereignty, applied the prophecies which relate to the advent of Christ in their literal sense; they asserted that this was the season indicated by the prophets, in which Christ was to reign with his elect upon earth; some of them even assumed the prophetic character, proclaimed themselves the precursors of the Lord, and pronounced positively the speedy downfall of all other principalities and powers.

Among the numerous pretenders to the gift of prophecy, few were more successful than the celebrated Lodewick Muggleton, who, from the humble station of a journeyman taylor, was suddenly exalted into the founder of a sect. His associate was a person of the name of Reeves, who was perfectly on a level with him both as to station and erudition. They exhibited themselves as the two last witnesses of God; they assumed an absolute power of dispensing damnation or salvation to mankind; and preached that the end of the world was at hand. From the nature of their tenets, however, their popularity was but of short duration. The disappointment of a prediction is generally fatal to the reputation of the prophet:—their credit, therefore, survived them but a few years; and we believe the sect is now nearly, if not utterly extinct.

Most of those visionaries had their advocates. But few of the productions which contain their literary history, have descended to posterity; and these are only deposited in the libraries of ecclesiastical antiquarians. They indeed trusted more in general for the propagation of their doctrines to the force of their extemporary eloquence, than to the excellence of their compositions. Enthusiasm is an active principle, and but seldom submits to the patient drudgery of literary labour.

While a strict regard to truth obliges us to ascribe the origin of the Quaker profession to a spirit of enthusiasm in its first preachers, yet we must acknowledge that religious enthusiasm has never appeared in a more amiable form, nor was ever blended with purer and more refined principles of morality. George Fox, the famous founder of this respectable sect, was born at Drayton, in Leicestershire, and exercised the humble occupation of a shoemaker for a considerable time in the town of Nottingham. He is represented to have been of a pensive and retired temper; and as sober manners in that class of life are commonly connected with a devotional spirit, his leisure hours were spent in the assiduous study of the scriptures. He at length publicly proclaimed himself to be an inspired preacher; and the simplicity

plicity of his manners, the purity of his life, the general utility and excellence of his precepts, and his adroitness in defending his tenets upon the principles of scripture, soon attracted a number of disciples. He declaimed with vehemence and with energy against the vices of the age. He condemned war, and proved it incontestably to be altogether inconsistent with the Christian profession. Oaths, upon every occasion, he regarded as a species of blasphemy. He strenuously recommended simplicity in dress, and frugality in all domestic arrangements. The persecutions which this good man, this truly apostolical preacher, endured, in his endeavours to reform a corrupt yet bigotted age, are a stigma on the times in which he lived, and a disgrace to professing christians. The usurper Cromwell himself, felt the force of his rebukes; and his military despotism tottered before the preacher of peace *. His soldiers themselves were unable to resist that reasoning, which proved from the gospel the unlawfulness of their profession; and the satellites of tyranny became the apostles of peace, and the martyrs of religion. Not only many of the converts of Fox, therefore, were severely punished, but he himself was subjected to a rigorous imprisonment by the orders of the government; and the rest of the Quaker preachers were enjoined silence under severe penalties: but what human authority can silence or counteract the force of truth?

Among the military converts of Fox, one of the most extraordinary was James Naylor, who had been bred a farmer, but who, during the civil wars, had enlisted as a soldier in the parliamentary army. Naylor soon became a preacher among the new sect; and his zeal was not unaccompanied by talents. But the modesty and simplicity which characterized the Quakers in general, were, in the violence of enthusiasm, or in the career of vanity, forgotten by Naylor. Not content with assuming the prophetic character, it is said he arrogated to himself titles which approached to blasphemy, and disgraced religion by the extravagances which he committed. His followers participated in his zeal and his infatuity; and (if we may credit contemporary writers) as he passed through Bristol in his way to London from the west, the multitude who accompanied him, proclaimed him as the promised Messiah, and, in imitation of our Saviour's entry into Jerusalem, sung, as they marched before him, the sacred hymn—"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth—Hosannah in the highest, &c." So gross a mockery of religion was not to be endured by fanaticism itself. The pretended prophet was apprehended by the magistrates and sent to London to be examined by the parliament. The parliament, in this instance, departed from their functions as legislators, and assumed the complex character of judges, jury, and accusers. The sentence was as severe as it was probably unjust; and the irregularity of the proceedings, lead us to suspect the truth of the evidence on which he was said to be convicted. Either his sufferings restored him to his right senses, or (what we are disposed to believe) his errors had been grossly exaggerated and misrepresented. In his confinement he composed several tracts in a strain of piety, bordering indeed on enthusiasm, but in a spirit of humility little consistent with the charges of blasphemy alledged against him.

* The following story is told by Whitlocke, page 599. Some Quakers at Hasington, in Northumberland, coming to the minister on the sabbath-day, and speaking to him, the people fell upon the Quakers, and almost killed one or two of them, who going out, fell on their knees, and prayed God to pardon the people, who knew not what they did; and afterward speaking to the people, so convinced them of the evil they had done in beating them, that the country people fell a quarrelling, and beating one another more than they had before beaten the Quakers.

him. The writings of the Quakers in general were, however, at this period but little noticed without the narrow boundaries of their own ſect. In the ſucceeding reign the tenets of the ſociety were acutely defended by the learning and talents of a Barclay; and their conſtitution was organized and digeſted by the judgment of a Penn.

The Socinian doctrines, which had been publiſhed in Poland in the latter end of the preceding century, had at this period made but little progreſs in Great Britain: yet the doctrine of the Trinity was vigorouſly impegned by John Biddle, a ſtudent of Magdalen-hall, Oxford, and maſter of the free-ſchool of Crypt, in the city of Glouceſter, who ſuffered a long and rigorous impriſonment from the Calviniſtic party in the long parliament, and was at length tried for his life on the infamous ordinance of blaſphemy, which was paſſed by that body, and was reſcued from the fatal effects of this proſecution, only by the interference of Cromwell. It does not appear that Biddle was converſant with the writings of the Polish brethren: and his objections to the received doctrine of the Trinity were chiefly confined to the divinity of the Holy Ghoſt. He was committed to priſon, along with other diſſenters, after the Reſtoration, where he ſoon contracted a diſeaſe, of which he died.

The more powerful and numerous ſects, thoſe which at different periods of this fluctuating government enjoyed the favour and protection of the legiſlature and the court, it may well be imagined, included among their partizans ſeveral men of great and eminent talents. Among the Preſbyterians, there are none whoſe names have deſcended to poſterity with a reputation equal to that of Matthew Poole, and Edmund Calamy. Mr Poole was, however, only known, at the period of which we are now treating, as the author of ſome uſeful tracts, and as a man of conſiderable erudition. His great work, the Synopſis Criticorum Bibliorum, was not undertaken till the ſucceeding reign, after his ejection from the church of St Michael-le-Quern, of which he was rector upward of twelve years. Edmund Calamy was, as well as Matthew Poole, educated at Cambridge; and, in the year 1639, was choſen by the pariſhioners miniſter of St Mary, Aldermanbury. Very early in life he evinced ſtrongly his antipathy to the Arminian party; and this circumſtance, it is alledged, prevented his obtaining a fellowſhip in the univerſity, though his literary acquirements and his ſtanding, both entitled him to it, and though his character was unblemiſhed. Mr Calamy commenced his eccleſiaſtical career as a conformiſt to the church of England, and is ſaid rather to have objected to the forms under which epiſcopacy was eſtabliſhed in this country, than to epiſcopacy itſelf. Though he occaſionally preached before the Houſe of Commons during the interregnum, yet he took no part in the violent proceedings of the republican party, and oppoſed the beheading of the King with conſtancy and courage. During the uſurpation of Cromwell he was paſſive: yet when called upon to declare his ſentiments, he was far from approving that proceeding. There is indeed a remarkable ſtory of our author related by Harry Neville, one of the council of ſtate, which is deſerving the notice of all poſterity, ſince it conveys to the reflecting reader the real ſecret of every tyrannical government, and the means by which the liberties of mankind are wreſted from them. When Cromwell firſt aſpired to the ſupreme dignity, deſirous of the ſupport of the preſbyterian clergy, he ſent for ſome of the moſt eminent of the city divines, informing them that, as a matter of conſcience, he would ſubmit his arguments and his ſcruples to their determination. Among thoſe who attended, was Mr Calamy; and he

he oppoſed the project of Cromwell's ſingle government with equal boldneſs and force, and endeavoured to prove it not only unlawful but impracticable, aſſerting, that it was evidently againſt the ſenſe of the nation, and that *nine* out of *ten* would openly oppoſe it. "Well," replied Cromwell, if that is all, ſuppoſe I ſhould diſarm the nine, and put the ſword into the tenth man's hand, will not that, think you, effect the buſineſs?"

Mr Calamy was one of the non-conformiſt divines who were principally concerned in writing the famous book, known by the name of Smectymnus, which, in the year 1641, gave, as he himſelf expreſſes it, "the firſt mortal blow to epiſcopacy." It is entitled, "An Anſwer to a book entitled, An humble Remonſtrance; in which the original of Liturgy and Epiſcopacy is diſcuſſed, &c. written by Smectymnus," a word compoſed of the initial letters of its authors' name, viz. Stephen Marſhal, Edmund Calamy, Thomas Young, Matthew Newcomen, and William Spurſtow, all of them men of note and reputation among the nonconformiſts. Dr Joſeph Hall, biſhop of Exeter, who was mentioned in one of our preceding volumes, was the author of the Humble Remonſtrance; and a controvery of ſome length was carried on between him and the Smectymneans. But the worthy and pious prelate was ſcarcely equal to a conteſt with ſuch acute and able antagoniſts, whatever advantage he might have in point of evidence and fact. Though Mr Calamy was at firſt rewarded for his loyalty by being appointed chaplain in ordinary to Charles the Second, he ſoon experienced the ingratitude which was ſo peculiarly the characteriſtic of that execrable prince, and was ejected from his living, and even committed to priſon, on ſome triſling accuſation. The learned and pious Baxter was alſo at this period in ſome repute among the Preſbyterians; but as his literary labours were chiefly confined to the ſucceeding period, we muſt reſerve his character for our next volume.

(*To be continued.*)

REFLECTIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FORMING THE FEMALE CHARACTER, BY EDUCATION.

NO pains or expence are ſpared in imparting knowledge to *man*. Not ſo, in teaching it to *woman*. But why? Are women incapable of it? By no means. There have been inſtances to the contrary, in every age: there are many ſhining ones in the preſent. They are what they are by education. If ignorant, it is through want of inſtruction, not of capacity.

But do not women that become learned, make themſelves ridiculous? Perhaps they may, ſometimes, for want of being taught the moſt uſeful part of learning, which is *diſcretion*. But this is far from being univerſally the caſe. There are not wanting thoſe who know how to manage their learning, when they have acquired it, and poſſeſs it, as if they poſſeſſed it not.

Women, however, are not deſigned to govern the ſtate, or to command armies; to plead in Weſtminſter-hall, or to preach in the church; and therefore need not ſtudy the ſciences requiſite for either of theſe profeſſions. But there are employments ſuited to them, and to which they ought to be ſuited; and no ſmall degree of knowledge is required to ſuit them. The knowledge that is neceſſary for men, may not be neceſſary for them; but they are not to be left in ignorance on that account.

A young woman that is ignorant, will be idle, becauſe ſhe knows not what to do. If ſhe is idle, ſhe will ſoon be miſerable, becauſe, throughout the world, from the higheſt to the loweſt, happineſs conſiſts in employment. If ſhe is miſerable, ſhe will ſeek to relieve her miſery by wander-

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ing abroad, running after fhews and diverfions. When fhe is arrived thus far, fhe may foon go farther; fhe may become vicious herfelf, and then moft probably will fpend the reft of her life in making others fo. The bad education of women does generally even more mifchief than that of men; fince the vices of men proceed either from the ill education they receive at firft from their mothers, or elfe from the paffions which other women excite in them at a riper age.

Female influence always has been, and always muft be, very great in the world; and, therefore, it is in the power of a well educated woman, whatever be her ftation, to do much good in it.

How valuable to a family is a prudent and faithful *fervant* of this fex, and of what vaft importance to the temporal intereft of a maffer or miftrefs has fuch a fervant proved! fometimes to intereft of a higher nature. Curious to this purpofe is the ftory told in the fifth chapter of the fecond book of Kings. The Syrians had invaded the land of Ifrael. Among other prifoners, they had brought away captive *a little maid*, and the waited on the wife of Naaman, the leper of Syria's general, a man of high renown, and in great favour at court, but afflicted with a terrible and loathfome malady, the leprofy, incurable by human means. This fervant, who had been educated in the true religion, and therefore knew the power of the God of Ifrael, and the miracles wrought by the hands of his prophets, grieved that the unhappy condition of her new maffer, expofed her miftrefs to her difpofe that he would apply for help, or relief. "Would to God, (faid fhe) that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprofy!" The words were fo remarkable, that anfwer, "Naaman went in, and told his lord, faying, Thus and thus faid the maid that is of the land of Ifrael."

The conf.quence was, that the general took a journey to the prophet, and was not only cured of his leprofy, but became a convert to the true religion, and worfhipped the God of Elifha. And how often have perfons in the higheft ftations been excited to good, or reftrained from evil, at the inftance, or by the example, of an inferior in the train of their own fervants, who had been taught in early youth, what *they* perhaps had never learned, or, in the hour of paffion, had forgotten!

The importance of female education will rife in our opinion, if we confider women as perfons who may become *wives*, and *miftreffes* of families. In this ftuation, they have duties to perform, which lie at the very foundation of human life. The fupport or the ruin of families depends upon their conduct: they have the direction of houfehold affairs; they, confequently, determine the greateft concerns of mankind, and form the good or evil manners of almoft all the world. A judicious woman, that is diligent and religious, is the very foul of a houfe; fhe gives orders for the good things of this life, and for thofe too of eternity. Even the deliberations of men themfelves, who have all the authority in public, cannot eftablifh any effectual good, without the concurrent affiftance of women to carry them into execution. Befide their affiduity and their continual attendance in their houfes, they have the advantage of being by nature careful, attentive to particulars, induftrious, infinuating, and perfuafive. And how can the men hope for any content in life, if their deareft friendfhip and alliance, which is that of marriage, be turned into that of difappointment and bitternefs?

But a matter of more weight is ftill behind. As *mothers*, women have, for fome time, and that the moft critical time too, the care of the education of their children of both fexes, who, in the next age, are to make up the

the great body of the world. And as the health and ſtrength, or ſickneſs and weakneſs, of our bodies, are very much owing to *their* methods of treating us when we were young; ſo the foundneſs or folly of our minds are not leſs owing to thoſe firſt tempers and ways of thinking, which we eagerly receive from the love, tenderneſs, authority, and conſtant converſation of our mothers. As we call our firſt language our *mother* tongue, ſo we may as juſtly call our firſt tempers our *mother* tempers; and perhaps it may be found more eaſy to forget the language than to part entirely with thoſe tempers, which we learnt in the nurſery.

That mothers, where they themſelves have been well inſtructed, are more *capable* than men, of teaching their children, will appear from theſe conſiderations—Firſt, from their circumſtances and conditions of life: they are more within doors; have more time to ſpare; are beſt acquainted with their children's tempers; and always have them in their eye. Secondly, they have an advantage from their own make and frame of mind; they are generally more apprehenſive of danger, and of what may come hereafter, than men are. This makes them more concerned for their children's everlaſting welfare, and ſolicitous to teach them what they know themſelves. Then they are of a milder diſpoſition; can bear with their children's infirmities, and correct them with a tenderneſs which even recommends a neceſſary ſeverity. By this means their children come to love them, to be fond of their inſtruction, and to imitate their example. Beſide all this, they are more patient of this kind of labour than men are. It is not the child's dullneſs, nor the neceſſity of often repeating the ſame things, that will weary or diſcourage the pious mother. And, which is not to be omitted, ſhe has an opportunity of ſeeing whether her inſtructions are apprehended and followed; of deſtroying vices, while they are in the bud; as alſo, of encouraging every commendable word and action, in its ſeaſon.

In one word—The mothers have an opportunity, both by their inſtruction and example, of fixing ſuch laſting impreſſions upon their children's minds, as, by the bleſſing of God upon their endeavours, neither the iniquity of the age, nor the temptations incident to youth, ſhall ever be able to eradicate.

K.

A GENTOO STORY.

(From Fragments in the Manner of Sterne.)

SOME parts of Bengal—an' pleaſe your honour—quoth Trim—are governed by the Engliſh.——I know it, Trim,—quoth my uncle Toby,—and what buſineſs have they to govern there!——

I wiſh they had never governed there—ſaid Trim—for the honour of their country.—They found an excuſe—and a bitter cruel one it was, as ever made a man's heart ach!——it was as rank hypocriſy, your honour—as if a murderer had put on a parſon's gown, to hide the blood upon his clothes——They found an excuſe—an' pleaſe your honour—to cruſh the leaſes of thoſe that poſſeſſed them—ſold their houſes over their heads—took their fields out of their hands—and paſſed them into thoſe of monopoliſers.——

Monopoliſer, Trim—ſaid my uncle Toby—is but another word for a—ſelfiſh ſcoundrel.——

In the general rout, an' pleaſe your honour—continued Trim—much of the land remain'd untill'd—which cauſed a ſcarcity of proviſion—Hardhearted monopoliſers, your honour, filled their magazines with what little was left.——

They could not have done more, Trim, to a cruel and an obſtinate *ene-*

my,

my, who was at laſt obliged to ſurrender at diſcretion.

——But they were their *governors!* an,' pleaſe your honour—quoth Trim, raiſing his voice.——

The greater the crime, Trim——We ſhould not forget that it is our duty to fulfil the poſt that we are placed in:—it is our duty to be honourable at all times: but to give up a garriſon that we have ſworn to defend, Trim, is the baſeſt of all acts—*that* of treachery.

——An' pleaſe your honour, this Gentoo had a wife and ſix children.—He poſſeſſed a little land,—and, by the ſweat of his brow——

They ſweat dreadfully in thoſe countries, Trim!—quoth my uncle Toby—

And by the ſweat of his brow, had ſaved up a little money.——When his houſe and fields were taken from him——en' pleaſe your honour—continued Trim, (almoſt choaked with indignation)—it makes my blood work to think of ſuch cruel wretches!——

Drink a little ſack, Trim—quoth my uncle Toby.

Then here's your honour's health—and may your honour's heart be a model for every Engliſhman to form his own by!——

Thank ye, Trim—ſaid my uncle Toby—with his uſual ſmile, that ſpoke a generous diſpoſition.

Courteous reader! Conceive not the tender heart of Trim capable of a willing offence——He did not drink my father's health, although my father was in the room:——That my father was ſeated at the left hand of Trim, is true——but then my father's chair was not in a direct line with Trim's—it was full a foot and a half behind it.——Now, Trim was looking—neither to right, or to the left, nor behind him;—he was looking full in my uncle Toby's face.——My uncle Toby, and the misfortunes of the Gentoo, were all that Trim thought on.——My father was too intereſted to notice it. Trim continued——

When he found his houſe and fields were to be taken from him, he told his wife of his miſhap.—It would almoſt break your honour's heart,—to hear the deſcription that Dick—(for that is the ſoldier's name that told me, your honour)——it would almoſt break your honour's heart—to hear how mournfully they marched out of their little garriſon, with all their baggage—every eye wet, the children that could walk, moving diſconſolately,—and three that could not, carried by the father—mother—and eldeſt ſon.——It muſt have been as mournful, your honour, as marching to the grave of a beloved officer who had fallen in battle.——Every three or four ſteps they took, they turned their heads back—looked at the field—then at their children—then at the field again.——Confound their maſk'd batteries!——they had better have ſprung a mine, your honour, and blown them up at once!—than plunder them firſt, and ſtarve 'em out afterward—as your honour will ſoon hear.——Poor ſouls!—continued Trim, (in a mixed tone of pity and reſentment)——They were forced to retreat,—by as foul an attack, an' pleaſe your honour, as ever coward made!——They had a few rupees which they had ſaved,—and this little ſtock was to carry them to the ſtores of their murderers, to buy rice——When all their money was gone—continued Trim—they fed upon decayed roots, and unwholeſome weeds!——An' will your honour believe, that theſe innocent ſouls would not take away the *life* of any living thing, to keep *their own* within them?——There was *humanity!*—ſaid Trim, in a tone of exultation,

Never did I ſee the countenance of my uncle ſo filled with anguiſh——His lip trembled—and the drop of pity, which had lodged there, trembled with it.——He took out his handkerchief, and hid his face in it; whether it was to dry his tears, or to hide the ſhame he felt for his countrymen

trymen—I cannot decide.——My father looked diſconſolate.—And is this the work of the generous Engliſhman! ſaid he.——An' pleaſe your honour—ſaid Trim—I cannot help feeling it!

In one of thoſe *confuſed* moments of grief which prompts us involuntarily to do, what, in the moments of *coolneſs*, we would not,—Trim took up the ſack, and put it to his lips, without being told——It was a mixed draught—for the tears of my uncle Toby, who drank before him, and his own tears, compoſed part of the cup.——

Trim continued——An' pleaſe your honour, what muſt have been the feelings of a father—to ſee his family ſet down to ſuch a meal?——But it couldn't laſt long, your honour!——Peſtilence and famine came into their doors.——Poor father!—to ſee five of his children drop—and breathe their laſt before his eyes——and *then* his wife, who had ſhared all his pleaſures!——But, alas! your honour,—not all his pains——

Here Trim burſt into tears——Indeed, your honour, I cannot continue!——

Go on my good fellow—ſaid my uncle Toby—While the tears rolled down his cheeks like thoſe of an infant.

——He took, an' pleaſe your honour——I cannot go on!——

What did he take, Trim?—quoth my uncle Toby, (reaching acroſs the table, and laying his hand on Trim's)

——An' pleaſe your honour—ſaid Trim,—he ſtripp'd the cloaths from his dead wife and children, to go to the ſtores—(dam'n 'em!)—to barter for another meal, to preſerve his only child——It was too late——he had ſcarcely left her—but ſhe ſunk dead upon the body of her mother!——When he reached the ſtore he gave it that curſe, which an unfortunate father gives to the deſtroyer of his family—caſt a faint eye upon the horrid walls—ſunk before 'em, and gaſped his laſt!——

There was havock!—an engagement is nothing to it!—An' pleaſe your honour—*three millions of ſouls met this fate!*

Thou merciful Being!—who delighteſt in the honeſt workings of the human heart—look down!——behold the eyes of three as generous ſouls as ever adorned thy creation—wet for ſorrows which they had never cauſed, or even felt but by the greatneſs of ſympathetic kindneſs!

——It was cruel to let them ſtarve, an' pleaſe your honour, becauſe they would not ſhed blood!——

I would rather have been the Gentoo, Trim—ſaid my uncle Toby—with all his ſtarving family about him—than one who had put his profits in his purſe, at the expence of the life of a fellow-creature.

——An pleaſe your honour—as old Dick ſaid—*every pagoda that they pocketed was covered with blood*——I wonder, your honour—if they could ſleep o'nights?——

If they did, Trim—quoth my uncle Toby—I truſt they were not *refreſhed* by it.——Innocence is to a man, Trim—what a cradle is to a child;—it rocks him into ſuch *ſweet ſleep!*——Which comes upon him—added my father—as ſoftly and gradually, Trim, as a ſummer's evening cloſing in a fine day!

——I ſhould think, your honour, that their conſciences and thoſe of their allies, (at home or abroad)—muſt have been dreadfully ſtormed—however fortified; for they muſt have known, your honour—that they could not hold out in the next life, whatever ſuccours they may have had in this.——

An' pleaſe your honour, I think it would have been more to the Happineſs of the poor Gentoos,——and our honour,——that we had never ſet foot in their country.——When they were governed by themſelves—Labour always ſmiled, and cheerfulneſs made her forget the ſweat upon her brow.

INFORMATION RESPECTING THE CASTLE OF DUNSINNAN, OR DUNSINANE.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.

THE author of the "Statistical account of Scotland" happened, *anno* 1772, to take an excursion to Perthshire, and being accidentally led to visit the remains of Dunsinnan Castle, took a sketch of them, as they appeared at that time, and collected all the traditions respecting the history of Macbeth, that were current in the neighbourhood. The story purported, that Macbeth, after his elevation to the throne, had resided for ten years at Carnbeddie, in the neighbouring parish of St Martin's, which the country people call *Caer-beth*, or Macbeth's Castle, and where the vestiges of his castle are still to be seen. During those times, witchcraft was very prevalent in Scotland, and two of the most famous witches in the kingdom lived on each hand of Macbeth, one at Collace, the other not far from Dunsinnan-house, in a place called the Cape*. Macbeth, taking a superstitious turn, applied to them for advice; and, by their council, he built a lofty castle upon the top of an adjoining hill, since called Dunsinnan, which, in the Gaelic language, signifies *The hill of seats*, implying the great labour and industry so essentially requisite for collecting the materials to rear a building. It was by nature strong, as well as fortified by art, being partly defended by high outer rocks, and partly surrounded by an outer wall, which inclosed a considerable space of ground, for exercising the men, &c. There was also a *fosse*, which joined the wall and outer rocks, and a high rampart which environed the whole, and defended the castle, itself large and well fortified. From the top of the hill, there is an extensive view of above fifty miles every way, comprehending Fifeshire, the hills in the neighbourhood of Blair-Athol, and Braemarr; Strathmore also and a great part of Angus are immediately under view. In short, there could not be a more commanding situation.

When Malcolm Canmore came into Scotland, supported by English auxiliaries, to recover his dominions from Macbeth *The Giant*, as the country people called him, he marched first towards Dunkeld, in order to meet with those friends who had promised to join him from the north. This led him to Birnam wood, where accidentally they were induced, either by way of distinction, or from some other motive, to ornament their bonnets, or to carry about with them in their hands, the branches of trees. The people in the neighbourhood flattered, as the tradition of the country, that they were distinguished in this situation by the spy whom Macbeth had stationed to watch their motions. He then began to despair, in consequence of the witches' prediction, who had warned him to beware "when Birnam wood should come to Dunsinanane:" and when Malcolm prepared to attack the castle, where it was principally defended by the outer rocks, he immediately descried it, and flying, ran up the opposite hill, pursued by Macduff; but finding it impossible to escape, he threw himself from the top of the hill, was killed upon the rocks, and buried at *The Lang Man's Grave*†, as it is

* The moor where the witches met, which is in the parish of St Martin's, is yet pointed out by the country people; and there is done the preserved, which is called the *Witches' Stone*. The moor is now planted, by William Macdonald, Esq. of St Martin's, the proprietor, and to whom also Carbeth, or Carbeddie, belongs; whose active zeal in promoting the improvement of the Highlands, will long be remembered in that part of the kingdom, with much regard.

† It would be worth while to examine this grave as some curious facts might be ascertained from it. It is proper to add, that not far from it is the road, where, according to the tradition of the country people, Banquo was murdered.

called

called, which it is ſtill extant. For the purpoſe of giving a better idea of theſe circumſtances, a ſlight and imperfect ſketch, drawn up at the time, is annexed.

Such were the traditions in the neighbourhood of Dunſinane Caſtle, in 1772; and the reader will naturally be ſtruck with the reſemblance between them and the celebrated play which Shakeſpeare founded on the hiſtory of Macbeth. There is every reaſon, indeed, to believe, that our great dramatiſt was upon the ſpot himſelf, and was inſpired with ſuch uncommon poetical powers from having viewed the places where the ſcenes he drew were ſuppoſed to have been tranſacted. In Guthries' Hiſtory of Scotland, (vol. viii. p. 358.) it it ſtated, that *anno* 1599, king James deſired Elizabeth to ſend him, in that year, a company of Engliſh comedians; with which requeſt ſhe complied; and James gave them a licence to act in his capital, and before his court. "I have great reaſon (he adds) to think that the immortal Shakeſpeare was of the number." And in the "ſtatiſtical account of Perth," (vol. xviii. p. 522.) we are told, that plays were actually exhibited in Perth, only a few miles from Dunſinane, in 1589. It is extremely improbable that the occurrences, as narrated by Shakeſpeare, and the traditions of the country, could have borne ſo ſtrong a reſemblance, unleſs he had gathered them upon the ſpot himſelf, or employed ſome other perſon for that purpoſe. The only material difference is, that according to tradition, Macbeth threw himſelf from the top of a rock; but it is much more poetical, as narrated by Shakeſpeare, his falling by the hands of Macduff, whom he had ſo greatly injured*.

About the period alluded to, *anno* 1772, I took much pleaſure in tracing the antiquities of Scotland, on the ſpot where the different occurences happened; but was too young (being then only about eighteen years of age) to do juſtice to ſuch intereſting inquiries. I have been tempted, however, from the hiſtorical importance of the Caſtle of Dunſinane, to ſtate the ſubſtance of the traditions I had collected reſpecting it; and perhaps it may not be improper to add, that I found the traditions reſpecting the battle of Luncarty, and other ancient events, much more diſtinct and accurate than is commonly imagined; and, in general, authenticated by the remains of encampments, the ruins of caſtles, the veſtiges of tombs, the appearence of mote-hills, or ſeats of juſtice, and the names of places, all affording concurring evidence of their authenticity.

The circumſtances regarding the battle of Luncarty, in particular, were uncommonly minute and circumſtantial. The encampments of the Scottiſh and Daniſh armies†, the place where Hay and his gallant ſons reſided, called Gulian, a farm oppoſite to Luncarty, the field they were ploughing at the time, the ford where they croſſed the Tay, and the very ſpot where they ſtopped and animated their flying countrymen, &c. &c. were all pointed out by old men in the neighbourhood, when examined by the author in 1772.

* Hiſtory narrates, that Macbeth was put to death at Lumphannan; but the tradition of the country is, that he was killed and buried in the neighbourhood of his own caſtle. It is ſingular that Buchanan, in his Hiſtory, points out the ſtory of Macbeth as admirably calculated for the drama. Did Shakeſpeare take the firſt hint from, or give it to the Scottiſh hiſtorian? "The idea of Shakeſpeare having been in Scotland is rendered ſtill more probable, by the number of Scottiſh words and phraſes made uſe of in his plays; and alſo from his parody on the well-known lines in the Scotch ballad beginning—

"In days when our king Robert rang."

† The place where the Daniſh army had encamped, was, *anno* 1772, called Denmark.

ON THE LOVE OF FAME.

Quem tulit ad fcenam ventofo gloria curru,
Exanimat lentus fpectator, teretibus inflat.
Sic leve, fic parvum eft, animum quod laudis avarum
Subruit ac reficit. HOR.

IMITATED.

O you, whom Vanity's light bark conveys
On Fame's mad voyage by the wind of Praife;
With what a fhifting gale your courfe you ply,
For ever funk too low, or borne too high;
Who pants for glory finds but fhort repofe,
A breath revives him or a breath o'erthrows. POPE.

EVERY inquiry that tends to improve the morals and happinefs of the world, every argument whofe object it is to make mankind think for themfelves, and thus fhake off that flavifh uniformity obfervable in modern manners, is entitled to praife. The mind which has for a length of time imbibed a peculiar train of ideas, or which has been accuftomed to adopt, with fluggifh indifference, the opinions of others, will be rarely found capable of generous or manly exertions; the appearance of difficulty difheartens, the profpect of oppofition drives it to defpair, until at laft it finks into languor and debility, exclaiming like Gray's Prophetefs,

Leave me, leave me, to repofe.

To oppofe this mental degeneracy it has been the object of all ages and nations to excite a love of fame: it has been held that "the refpect and attention of the world during life, and its applaufes after death, are fure means of exciting the mind to virtue; that Providence has implanted in the human breaft a love of diftinction; and that to attain this end man will undergo hardfhips of every kind, and fometimes even death itfelf." This argument has at firft fight a very prepoffeffing appearance, but upon nearer infpection will be found replete with error of a very pernicious tendency. The public mind is eafily impofed upon: in whatever light we view it, we can make nothing more of it than the collected mind of individuals, many of them prejudiced, many vicious, and many utterly ignorant of the merits of the candidate who follicits their fuffrage. Is the fentence of a body like this to direct our views and actions? Shall this "many-headed beaft," as Horace rightly calls it, poffefs the metamorphic power of making vice virtue, and virtue vice? Every unprejudiced obferver muft in an inftant be ftruck with the abfurdity fuch a tribunal, whofe means of information are fo vague and uncertain, and whofe wayward decifions will frequently confer honours upon fuccefsful roguery, and fink modeft worth into neglect and oblivion.

Yet, notwithftanding the dictates of reafon, though men of enlightened underftanding are convinced that true philofophy teaches us to follow virtue, the fubftantial good, rather than fame, her uncertain handmaid, poets and writers of every defcription have ever fondly adhered to the idea of the immortality of their works. "*Exegi Monumentum ære perenius*," fays Horace; fimilar to which is the vain glorious declaration of Ovid at the conclufion of his labours:

Jamque opus exegi, quod nec Jovis ira nec ignis,
Nec poterit ferrum, nec edax abolere vetuftas.

It would be fuperfluous to mention the number of ancients who have proudly arrogated immortality to their works, or the more fpecious and humble inſinuations of the moderns all ultimately tending to the fame goal. To endeavour at once to root out a paſſion which error has ſo deeply implanted

planted in the human breaſt, would be alike preſumptuous and vain; but it may diminiſh the oſtentatious ſwell of human greatneſs to reflect, that the ſhouts of a multitude are at beſt a very equivocal ſymptom of merit, ſince fame, as has been well obſerved,

Not more ſurvives from good than evil deeds.
The aſpiring youth who fired the Epheſian dome
Outlives in fame the pious fool that raiſ'd it.

It may alſo afford conſolation to thoſe who prefer the practice of virtue to the public diſplay of it, that as men improve in knowledge, character will find its true level; that it is the characteriſtic of barbarous and bigotted nations to be ſatisfied and deceived by external ſplendour, and that in proceſs of time the actions of men muſt appear in their proper light, and the immortality which they vainly aſſumed will be no more; or at leaſt be converted, like that of the original depredators of the world, into an immortality of contempt.

Among the writers who have endeavoured to expoſe the emptineſs of fame, and the fooliſh vanity of thoſe who toil in purſuit of it, few make a more diſtinguiſhed figure than the author of the "Eſſay on Man," a work which, however erroneous it may be as to its general philoſophy, muſt be always admired for the excellency of its practical maxims, and the conciſe though energetic language in which they are clothed in the following lines:

Fame (our from death a villain's name can ſave,
As juſtice tears his body from the grave;
When what to oblivion better were conſign'd
Is hung on high to poiſon half mankind.

The reader is at a loſs which to admire moſt, the truth of the obſervation, or the pointed and epigrammatic manner in which it is expreſſed; the equivoque on the laſt line,

Is hung on high to poiſon half mankind,

is peculiarly happy, while the doctrine inculcated of the folly of placing in a conſpicuous point of view thoſe vices which ſhould be quietly ſuffered to ſlide into oblivion, can never be ſufficiently admired.

An acute and ingenious philoſopher of the preſent day has exhibited, in a maſterly manner, the dreadful conſequences that frequently reſult from an obſtinate attachment to reputation*. But when the ſame author, in a work of profound inveſtigation and philoſophic reſearch †, would propoſe a new ſyſtem of government, viſionary indeed in ſome points, but in others "devoutly to be wiſhed," and places the love of diſtinction among the higheſt motives to the exerciſe of virtues and talents, herein he ſeems to contradict himſelf. That an obſtinate attachment to honour or reputation will frequently produce the effects he ſo forcibly repreſents, muſt be allowed; but, at the ſame time, a love of diſtinction, if it mean any thing different from a love of honour, will probably produce effects nearly ſimilar. In truth, neither diſtinction nor honour ſhould be offered to rational beings as inducements to the practice of virtue. We have ſeen that theſe can be procured by the reſemblance of virtue as well and frequently better than by the reality; and as long as this mode of conſidering the ſubject continues, ſo long will indolence, vanity, and vice continue to dazzle and deceive the world. If mankind could be once convinced, that to practiſe virtue is to promote the general intereſt, if the advantages that would reſult from ſuch a meaſure, and the univerſal increaſe of eaſe and happineſs reſulting from it, were exhibited in the ſtrong colouring of reaſon, and at the ſame time adapted to the meaneſt capacity, it ſeems, that more general good would be produced than by holding forth rewards, which it is inſulting to offer, and vexatious to accept, and which, inſtead of rewarding, have from their very eſſence a tendency to corrupt, by clothing virtue in the garb of ſelfiſhneſs and venality. M.

* Caleb Williams.

† Inquiry concerning Political Juſtice.

ON

ON NATIONAL CHARACTER.

IF we run over the whole globe, or revolve all the annals of hiſtory, we ſhall diſcover every where ſigns of a contagion of manners, but none of the influence of air or climate, as has been vulgarly ſuppoſed. We may obſerve, that where a very extenſive government has been eſtabliſhed for many centuries, it ſpreads a national character over the whole empire, and communicates to every part a ſimilitude of manners. Thus the Chineſe have the greateſt uniformity of character imaginable, though the air and climate, in different parts of that vaſt empire, admit of very conſiderable variations.

In ſmall governments which are very contiguous, the people have notwithſtanding a different character, and are very often as diſtinguiſhable in their manners as the moſt diſtant nations. Athens and Thebes were but a ſhort day's journey from each other; though the Athenians were as remarkable for ingenuity, politeneſs, and gayety, as the Thebans for dulneſs, ruſticity, and a phlegmatic temper. Plutarch, diſcourſing of the effects of air on the minds of men, obſerves, that the inhabitants of the Piræum, poſſeſſed very different tempers from thoſe of the higher town of Athens, which was diſtant about four miles from it. But I believe no one attributes the difference of manners in Wapping and in St James', to a difference of air and climate.

The true national character commonly follows the authority of a government to a preciſe limit or boundary; and upon croſſing a river, or paſſing a mountain, one finds a new ſet of manners along with a new government. The Languedocians and the Gaſcons are the gayeſt people of all France; but whenever you croſs the Pyrenees, you are among Spaniards. Is it conceivable, that the qualities of the air ſhould change ſo exactly with the limits of an empire, which depend ſo much on the accidents of battles, negociations and marriages? Where any ſet of men, ſcattered over diſtant nations, have a cloſe ſociety or communication together, they acquire a ſimilitude of manners, and have but little in common with the nation among whom they live. Thus the Jews in Europe, and the Armenians in the eaſt, have a peculiar character; and the former are as much noted for certain peculiarities, as the latter are for the very oppoſite. The Jeſuits in all Roman Catholic countries were obſerved to have a character peculiar to themſelves.

When any accident, as a difference of language, or religion, keep two nations, inhabiting the ſame country, from mixing with each other, they will preſerve a diſtinct and even oppoſite ſet of manners for ſeveral centuries. The integrity, gravity, and bravery of the Turks, form an exact contraſt to the levity, deceit and cowardice of the Modern Greeks. The ſame ſet of manners will follow a nation, and adhere to them over the globe, as well as the ſame laws and languages. The Spaniſh, Engliſh, French, and Dutch colonies, are all diſtinguiſhable even between the tropics.

The manners of a people change very conſiderably from one age to another; either by great alterations in their government, by the mixtures of new people, or by that inconſtancy, to which all human affairs are ſubject. Candour, bravery, and love of liberty, formed the character of the ancient Romans; as ſubtlety, cowardice, and a ſlaviſh diſpoſition of the moderns. Where ſeveral neighbouring nations have a very cloſe communication together, either by policy, commerce, or travelling, they acquire a ſimilitude of manners, proportioned to that communication. Thus all the Franks ſeem to have an uniform character to the eaſtern nations. The differences between them are like the particular accents of dif-

different provinces, which are not distinguishable, except by an ear accustomed to them, and which commonly escape a foreigner.

We may often remark a wonderful mixture of manners and character in the same nation, speaking the same language, and subject to the same government; and in this particular, the English are the most remarkable that ever were in the world. Nor is this to be attributed to the mutability and uncertainty of their climate, or to any other physical causes; since all these causes take place in the neighbouring kingdom of Scotland, without producing, at least in so great a degree, the same effect. Where the government of a nation is altogether republican, it is apt to beget a particular set of manners. Where it is altogether monarchical, it is more apt to have the same effect; the imitation of superiors spreading the national manners faster among the people. If a state consists altogether of merchants, such as Holland, their uniform way of life will form their character. If it consists chiefly of nobles and landed gentry, like Germany and Spain, the same effect follows. The genius of a particular sect or religion is also apt to mould the manners of a people. But the English government is a mixture of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. The people are composed of gentry and merchants. All sects of religion are to be found among them. And the great liberty or independence, which they enjoy, allows every one to display the manners which are peculiar to him. Hence the English, of any people in the universe, have the least of a national character; unless this very singularity be made their national character.

If the characters of men depended on the air and climate, the degrees of heat and cold should naturally be expected to have a mighty influence; since nothing has a greater effect on all plants and irrational animals. And, indeed, there is some reason to think, that all the nations which live beyond the polar circles, or between the tropics, are inferior to the rest of the species in a considerable degree. The poverty and misery of the inhabitants of the northern part of the globe, and the indolence of the southern, may, perhaps, account for this remarkable difference, without having recourse to physical causes.

Shall we say, that the neighbourhood of the sun inflames the imaginations of men, and gives them a peculiar spirit and vivacity? The French, Greeks, Egyptians, and Persians, are remarkable for gayety: the Spaniards, Turks, and Chinese, are noted for gravity and a serious behaviour; without any such difference of climate, as to produce this difference of temper.

The Greeks and Romans, who called all other nations barbarians, confined genius and a fine understanding to the more southern climates, and pronounced the northern nations incapable of knowledge and civility. But Britain has produced as great men, either for action or learning, as Greece or Italy have to boast of.

It is pretended, that the sentiments of men become more delicate as they approach nearer the sun; and that their taste of beauty and elegance of every kind receives proportionable improvements in every latitude, as we may particularly observe of the languages, of which the more southern are smooth and melodious, the northern harsh and untuneable. Every language will depend somewhat on the manners of the people; but much more on that original stock of words and sounds, which they receive from their ancestors, and which remain unchangeable, even while their manners admit of the greatest alterations. Who can doubt, that the English are at present a much more polite and intelligent people than the Greeks were for several ages after the siege of

Troy? Yet there is no comparison between the language of Milton and that of Homer. Nay, the greater the alterations and improvements which happen in the manners of a people, the less can be expected in their language. A few great and refined geniuses will communicate their taste and knowledge to a whole people, and produce the greatest improvements; but they fix the tongue by their writings, and prevent, in some degree, its farther degeneracy.

Lord Bacon has observed, that the inhabitants of the South Seas are, in general, more ingenious than those of the north; but that, where the native of a cold climate has genius, he rises to a higher pitch than can be reached by the southern wits. This observation another writer confirms, by comparing the southern wits to cucumbers, which are commonly all good of their kind, but at best are an insipid fruit; while the northern geniuses are like melons, of which not one in fifty is good: but when it is good, it has an exquisite relish. I believe his remarks may be allowed just, when confined to the European nations, and to the present age, or rather to the preceding one: but then, I think, it may be accounted for by moral causes. All the sciences and liberal arts have been imported to us from the south; and it is easy to imagine, that, in the first ardour of application, when excited by emulation and by glory, the few that were addicted to them, would carry them to the greatest height, and stretch every nerve and every faculty, to reach the pinnacle of perfection. The universal diffusion of learning among the people, and the entire banishment of gross ignorance and rusticity, is therefore seldom attended with any remarkable perfection in particular persons. "Formerly, (says Juvenal,) learning was confined to Greece and Italy. Now the whole world emulates Athens and Rome. Eloquent Gaul has taught Britain, knowing in the laws." This state of learning is remarkable: because Juvenal is himself the last of the Roman writers, who possessed any degree of genius: those who succeeded are valued for nothing but the matters of fact, of which they give us information.

Cardinal Bentivoglio gives the preference to the northern nations above the southern, with regard to candour and sincerity; and mentions on the one hand, the Spaniards and Italians, and on the other the Flemish and Germans. But I am apt to think that this happened by accident. The ancient Romans seem to have been a candid people, as are the modern Turks. But if we will once suppose, that this event has arisen from fixed causes, we may only conclude from it, that all extremes are apt to concur, and are commonly attended with the same consequences. Treachery is the most usual concomitant of ignorance and barbarity; and if civilized nations ever embrace subtle and crooked politics, it is with an excess of refinement, which makes them disdain the plain direct road to power and glory.

ANTI-PREJUDICE.

ORIGIN OF THE GAME OF CHESS.

ABOUT the commencement of the fifth century of the christian æra, the sovereignty of a large kingdom, near the mouth of the Ganges, devolved to a very young monarch, experience had not yet taught him that he should consider his subjects as his children, and that their love is the only solid prop of the state; it was in vain that these important truths were held up to his view by the sage bramins and his rajahs; elated with power and grandeur, he swayed the land with unnatural severity.

Sissa, the son of Dahur, the most venerable of the Romans, on whom

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the ſplendour of philoſophy and wiſdom ſhone from his infancy to his ſeventieth year, ſaw that there were virtues in the monarch which required only the culture of reaſon to bring them into life; and, afflicted at the miſeries of his country, he undertook to diſplay to the monarch the cauſe of them.

Siſſi, aware of the diſrepute into which the precepts of morality and virtue had fallen, from the evil example held up by thoſe who taught them, was led to deviſe a mode of inſtruction, whereby his leſſons ſhould appear the reſult of the prince's own reaſoning, rather than the inſtructions of another. With this view he invented the game of *Shaik, or the King*; in this game he contrived to make the King the moſt important of all the pieces, but yet the eaſieſt to attack, and the moſt difficult to defend, and only to be defended by the next in rank or conſequence in the game, in gradation.

The game was firſt ſpread abroad among ſome of the leading men; and, from the great fame of Siſſa, became ſoon in vogue; the prince heard of it, and directed that the inventor ſhould be his inſtructor; the ſage bramin now attained his deſire, and, in the courſe of his inſtructions, took ſeaſonable occaſions to point out the dependence of the king on the pawns, and other ſeaſonable truths; the prince, born with genius, and capable of virtuous ſentiments, in deſpite of the maxims of courtiers, applied to himſelf the morality which the game ſo ſtrongly exhibited, and reforming his conduct, his people ſoon became happy.

The prince, eager to recompenſe the bramin for the great good derived from his ingenuity, required him to demand what he thought competent—The bramin aſked only a gift of corn, the amount of which ſhould be regulated by the number of houſes, (for ſquares on the chefs-board,) putting one grain on the firſt houſe, two on the ſecond, four on the third, and ſo on in double permutation to the ſixty-fourth houſe. The aparent moderation of the demand aſtoniſhed the king, and he unheſitatingly granted it; but, when his treaſurers had calculated the amount of the donation, they found that the king's revenues were not competent to diſcharge it; for the corn of 16,384 towns, each containing 1024 granaries, of 173,762 meaſures each, and each meaſure to conſiſt of 32,768 grains, could alone anſwer the demand!

The bramin then took an opportunity of pointing out to the monarch how neceſſary it was, eſpecially for kings, to be guarded againſt the arts of thoſe who ſurround them—how much they owed to their ſubjects, and how cautious they ſhould be of inconſiderately beſtowing their goods waſtefully.

ORIGIN OF ALMANACKS.

THE ancient Saxons uſed to engrave upon certain ſquare ſticks about a foot in length, ſhorter or longer as they pleaſed, the courſes of the moons of the whole year, whereby they could always certainly tell when the new-moons, full-moons, and changes ſhould happen; and ſuch carved ſticks they called Al-mon-aght, that is to ſay, All-moon-heed; to wit, the regard or obſervation of all the moons; and hence is derived the name of Almanack.

VERSTEGAN.

This is a clear derivation of the term almanack, and ſhews the miſtake of thoſe who would derive it from the Arabic, becauſe of the firſt ſyllable *Al*.

There is in St John's College, Cambridge, a Saxon Almanack exactly anſwering to the above deſcription; and I have in my poſſeſſion an almanack made in the reign of Edward the Third, of parchment; not in the uſual form of a ſheet, or a book, but in ſeparate pieces, folded in the ſhape of a flat ſtick or lath, in the Saxon

fashion. It is perfectly fair, and exhibits the best specimen of the ancient numerals I have yet met with.

The method of beginning and dividing the year, as in our almanacks, is barbarous enough, but might easily be reformed. There are, no doubt, numberless objections to the disturbing a fixed method of reckoning time; but if a new form must be adopted, I would recommend as a model, the druidical year, which commenced at the winter solstice, when the days having gone through their total decrease, begin their course anew. These are the bounds which nature dictates for the year, but what could dictate the modern French calendar, is difficult to say—it differs from the old almanack in every respect for the worse.

From The Four Ages, &c. by William Jackson, of Exeter.

DIALOGUES OF THE LIVING.

RETRENCHMENT.

Dramatis Personæ.

Mr & Mrs MODELY, and FAMILY.

Mr Modely. You perceive my dear Mrs Modely, that in consequence of these new taxes, we must retrench.

Mrs M. Certainly, my dear, we must.

Young M. O! undoubtedly, father, we must retrench.

Miss M. By all means, it is absolutely necessary.

Mr M. I am very glad to find you all think so, because where people are agreed upon the said object, it may always be conducted with ease and pleasure.

Mrs M. Mr dear I never could have a doubt—I expected you would retrench, and that handsomely.

Mr M. Well then my dear, I think, in the first place, we may do very well without the carriage, and hire a coach or post-chaise, now and then when wanted.

Mrs M. The carriage, my dear!

Young M. and Miss M. The carriage, papa!

Mr M. Yes, the carriage, for it is of very little use.

Mrs M. Why, my dear, really as to the carriage, I hardly know what to say,—The—the—the carriage is a thing that you know we have kept for some years, and it—it—it would have such an odd look—

Young M. Yes, certainly, it would have a very odd look.

Miss M. Consider what the neighbours would *say*.

Mr M. My dear, it does not signify what the neighbours *say*. We are to consider what we can afford, for I wish to be a contributer to government, and yet not hurt myself if I can.

Mrs M. But, my dear Mr Modely, you know we must keep up appearances, and if we lay down the carriage, it will appear that we could not afford to keep it. Nobody will suppose we do it in consequence of the new taxes. To be sure, Jack, you may lay down your horse, there can be no great occasion for him.

Young M. My horse! mother, why what would you have me to do?

Mrs M. Do! walk to be sure, you are young, and there can be no better exercise.

Young M. I *may* walk, mother, and walking *may* be the best exercise, but I can't do without my horse for all that. How would it look now, if, when Sir John Jehu, or my Lord Betlove, called upon me to take a ride, I were to say, 'I did not now keep a horse.'

Miss M. O! shocking.

Mr M. Well then, let us see what else we can lop off.

Mrs M. Why, really, my dear, I was going to propose a something which I think would be a very great saving, if you will only consent.

Mr M. Consent! Ay that I will, my

my dear, be what it will; for retrench we muſt, that's poz.

Mrs M. Then, my dear, I think, that in the article of wine only, eſpecially French wines, you might ſave from two to three hundred *per annum*.

Mr M. Wine! my dear—wine! did you ſay? Good heavens! how could ſuch a thought come into your head?

Mrs M. Why, very naturally, becauſe you are at a monſtrous expence in the article of wine, and you declare your willingneſs to retrench.

Mr M. Aſſuredly, Mrs Modely, in any thing *ſuperfluous*, any thing unreaſonable.—But to pretend that I have not a bottle of wine to give to a friend is ſuch a very prepoſterous, odd kind of a——

Mrs M. Nay, my dear, I don't mean that you ſhould not have a bottle of wine to give, but ſurely there is a difference between that, and giving wine at 10 and 12 ſhillings a bottle.

Mr M. Pooh! pooh! you know nothing of the matter. I muſt do as I am done by.—Giving up my cellar is quite out of the queſtion; I can't think of it.

Mrs M. My dear, I certainly ſhould not have propoſed it, if you had not declared you would agree to what I ſhould propoſe, be it what it might.

Mr M. Ay, to be ſure, any thing in reaſon, any thing conſiſtent with propriety, but this is ſo perfectly abſurd, that, excuſe me, my dear, it is quite an impeachment on your good ſenſe to propoſe it.

Mrs M. Well, my dear, I am ſatisfied, if you think there are other articles in which we may ſave.

Mr M. Other articles! ay, plenty, in which we may ſave, almoſt without any perſon perceiving it, or even ourſelves being ſenſible of it, for example, our ſhare in Lady Fidget's box at the opera. That ſtands us in a hundred and fifty pounds a-year beſide incidentals.

Mrs M. Well, I have no great objection, I like the *pit* at the opera quite as well—

Young M. And ſo do I a great deal better.

Miſs M. And I too.

Mr M. Heyday! The *pit!* did you ſay? This is retrenchment with a vengeance—No—If this be your way, you might as well retain the box; but I mean, that we ſhould give up the opera altogether—

Mrs M. Sure, my dear, you can't be ſerious?

Young M. No—our father loves a joke.

Miſs M. He ſays it only to try what we will reply.

Mr M. 'Pon my word, I never was more ſerious—I don't ſay that this will fully anſwer our purpoſes, but it will go a great way, and with ſome other ſmall matters I hope—

Mrs M. Good gracious! Mr Modley, how you talk?

Young M. Ay! where are you got to now, father?

Miſs M. I am in amazement—give up the opera!

Mrs M. If you are ſerious, my dear, I would beg leave to be ſerious too, and aſk you very ſeriouſly, whether it would become us to abſent ourſelves from a place which we have frequented for years, for no other reaſon than economy?

Mr M. There may be many worſe reaſons than economy, my dear. What do you think of want?

Mrs M. O! that is quite out of the queſtion. But as to the opera, it is not that one cares much for the thing itſelf, only it is a convenient place to ſee one's friends, and it would have ſuch an effect, were we to give it up—Beſides, Lady Fidget would know our reaſons, if nobody elſe could find them out.

Mr M. Well, then, don't you think we might give up the ſubſcription concerts?

Mrs M. That I would with all my heart, but it is impoſſible.

Mr M. Impoſſible!

Young M. Quite impoſſible.

Mrs M. O quite ſo, becauſe all the laſt years ſubſcribers will be of courſe waited upon, and you know, one can't refuſe them.

Young M. It would be confounded ſhabby.

Miſs M. Lord! papa, what could we ſay to Mr Quartetto, or Signior Squalini, when they preſented tickets for their benefit.

Mr M. Why, you could refuſe them.

Mrs M. Refuſe them! No, we could not, nor could you, and have your name handed about from the band in the orcheſtra to the porters at the door, as a perſon too poor to buy a few concert tickets, or, which I confeſs is the genteeleſt way, to give five or ten guineas for a ſingle one.

Mr M. Well, for certain, there is ſomething in all that, and yet, my dear, retrench we muſt, and I am thinking that—

Mrs M. My dear, I beg your pardon, but I have hit it. I have hit upon one expence only which will relieve all that we have to expect from the new taxes.

Mr M. Out with it then, and off it ſhall go, I am determined.

Mrs M. Sell your hunting-box and your pack of hounds.

Mr M. Nay, now, my dear, *you* are a little jocular. Sell my hunting-box and my pack of hounds! A good joke truly—But come, come; we muſt talk about things that we *really* can do without.

Mrs M. Well, my dear, among the whole catalogue of our poſſeſſions, I know of nothing you can part with ſo eaſily and ſo properly.

Mr M. My pack of hounds, Mrs Modely!

Mrs M. Yes, your pack of hounds. Of what uſe are they? They conſume a great deal of money, and you cannot ſay that you derive even health from the exerciſe of the chaſe, for you take it in ſuch a way, and drink ſo much after it, that you are always much worſe than if you had ſtaid at your own fire-ſide.

Mr M. This is all prejudice, my dear: one muſt keep up appearances, You know I have many valuable friends whom I ſeldom ſee but in the hunting ſeaſon. We are a club—we are obliged to meet and entertain one another. Giving up ſuch a connexion would be the moſt diſgraceful thing in the world. I could never ſhow my face after it.

Young M. True, father, there I muſt agree with you. In this point, mother, you are a little out.

Mrs M. But what, then, in the name of wonder, do you mean to retrench?

(To be continued.)

TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND.

CONTINUED FROM VOL. 59. PAGE 942.

COUNTY OF ANGUS OR FORFAR.

This county meaſures from eaſt to weſt about 25 miles, and nearly as much from north to ſouth. The frith of Tay divides it from Fife on the ſouth. On the eaſt it is bounded by the Britiſh ocean, on the north and north eaſt by the ſhires of Kincardine and Aberdeen, and on the weſt by Perthſhire. From the ſea coaſt where the ground is generally level and fertile, the country becomes elevated till you arrive on the weſt boundery, where the mountains vie with almoſt any in Scotland in height and magnificence. A portion of the Grampian mountains runs through it. Favoured with the ſea coaſt, ſome of its towns, as Dundee and Montroſe, rank high in the ſcale of manufacture and commerce. This county, from many monuments, from the ancient erection of

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its burghs, and from its advanced ſtate of cultivation, appears to have been inhabited at an early period. The ſurface is adorned by many fine gendemens ſeats. Though there is both limeſtone and marl in this diſtrict, yet no pit-coal has been diſcovered in it.

DUNDEE. This parith extends from weſt to eaſt about 6 miles, its breadth varies from 1 to 4; the number of inhabitants is 23,500. The ſurface is on the whole uneven and hilly, but on many places the ſoil is good, and the greater part of the arable ground is incloſed. The Law of Dundee, the higheſt hill, is only 525 feet above the level of the ſea. The town, which is a royal burgh, ſtands on the eſtuary of the river Tay, is in general well built, and has a conſiderable trade. Tay ſalmon are carried freſh to London in ice packages, an invention of George Dempſter, Eſq; the whole fiſhery ſets at about 3000l. annually. The chief manufactures are oſnaburgs, and other coarſe linen, leather, and thread. There are about 116 veſſels belonging to the port, meaſuring 8550 tons. Dundee has given birth to a conſiderable number of uſeful and eminent men. The Fletchers of Salton, Wedderburn Lord Loughborough, Dempſter of Dunichen, and the gallant and modeſt Lord Duncan, are names which would add celebrity to any place, and will be always reſpectfully remembered by every Scotſman. On the hill of Dundee there is the remains of a fortification. On the hills of Balgay and Blackneſs, fine ſpecimens of porphyry are found; Scots pebbles of conſiderable variety are alſo met with, but no metallic ſubſtances have yet been diſcovered.

MONIFIETH is pleaſantly ſituated on the ſouth border of the county. It is of the form of a wedge, the extreme points of which are about 6 miles diſtant. It contains 1220 inhabitants. Broghty caſtle ſtands here, once of conſiderable note as a place of ſtrength. Salmon fiſhing in the Tay, and the white fiſhing on this coaſt, have been greatly on the decline for years paſt.

PANBRIDE is 5 miles long and 2 broad, and contains 1460 inhabitants. The ſhore is flat and rocky; the interior is conſiderably diverſified with gentle riſings, and produces all ſorts of grain.

ARBROATH or ABERBROTHOCK is pleaſantly ſituated within an amphitheatre, formed by a ridge of ſmall hills, having a fine ſouth expoſure, and an open proſpect to the eaſtern ocean and the Lothians. It is a royal burgh of very ancient creation. The trade is very conſiderable; it conſiſts chiefly of oſnaburgs, brown linen, and ſail cloth, of which they manufacture here, and in the immediate neighbourhood, to the extent of 70,000l. or 80,000l. worth annually. The harbour is but indifferent, though finely ſituated for trade; there are 32 ſail of veſſels belonging to it. The ruins of the Abbey, one of the fineſt and largeſt in Scotland, never fail to attract the notice of travellers. Near the town are ſome chalybeate ſprings not inferior in ſtrength to any in Scotland. The inhabitants are about 4700.

ST VIGEANS extends where largeſt 7, and where broadeſt 3 miles. The number of inhabitants is nearly 3336. It is watered by the river Brothick, which divides it into two parts. The ſhore riſes boldly about 100 feet above the level of the ſea; from that the aſcent is gradual to the top of the hill called Dirkmountlaw. The ſea waſhes the weſtern border for about 3 miles, terminating at the promontory called the Red-head.

INVERKEILOR extends from the coaſt weſtward nearly 8 miles, and in breadth 3. The number of inhabitants is 1750 In general it is pretty level, except on the north ſide, where the ground riſes from the river Lunan, and forms a beautiful bank. The Red-head is a remarkable promontory, near which lies Ethie houſe, a ſeat of the

the Earl of Northeſk. The rock affords Scots pebbles of the fineſt colour, and capable of the beſt poliſh. At the mouth of the Lunan ſtands Redcaſtle, a venerable ruin of great antiquity. The remains of Daniſh camps, as well as the ruins of ſeveral religious houſes, may ſtill be ſeen.

Lunan is an oblong ſquare, 2 miles long, and one in breadth, containing nearly 300 inhabitants. On the coaſt the ſoil is ſandy, the ground riſes pretty rapidly from the ſea, and is on the whole flat, producing tolerable good crops of all kinds of grain. The rent is from 10s. to 20s. per acre.

Logie and Pert. Theſe united parithes are of an elliptical form, meaſuring where longeſt 4, and where broadeſt 3 miles; and they contain nearly 1020 inhabitants. The aſpect is rather flat; the low grounds on the banks of the North Eſk are level and rich. A limeſtone rock was diſcovered in 1780, and continues to be worked with great advantage. The rent is from 10s. to 15s. per acre for arable land: the whole produces about 2000l. per annum. The Laws of Logie are three remarkable tumuli near the public road leading to Montroſe.

Brechin, the extent of this pariſh is nearly 8 miles both ways; it contains nearly 5000 inhabitants. The ground riſes gradually from the banks of the South Eſk, which runs through the middle of the pariſh. The ſoil is in general good. There is a conſiderable extent of planting and wood, which add both to beauty and utility. The rocks on the bank of the river are of freeſtone. The town of Brechin ſtands upon the river Eſk; it is a preſbytery ſeat, and of conſiderable antiquity. The bridge is one of the moſt ancient in Scotland. The monumental pillar in the church yard, is a remarkable piece of ancient architecture, and is thought to be Pictiſh.

Strickathrow is 7 miles in length, and 2 in breadth, and contains 670 inhabitants. The middle is level, but it riſes to each extremity, and comprehends the whole breadth of Strathmore at this place; the ſoil is various, but clay prevails. It is well watered by the North Eſk and other ſmaller ſtreams. There is a bed of limeſtone of conſiderable extent, which proves highly uſeful. The church-yard of Strickathrow is ſaid to be the ſpot where Baliol ſurrendered the crown of Scotland to Edward I. in 1296.

Dun may be conſidered as nearly a ſquare of 4 miles, containing 500 inhabitants. It is pretty much elevated. In the river Eſk, which waters this pariſh, there are trout and ſalmon.

Marytown comprehends only two eſtates, viz. old Montroſe and Dyſart, containing together between 2500 and 3000 acres of land, giving 1800l. ſterling yearly. Lying on the ſea coaſt and the banks of South Eſk; it is generally flat. There is a ſmall ridge of hills which run through the pariſh from eaſt to weſt, and divide old Montroſe from Dyſart. On an eminence, partly artificial, called Marytown Law, there is a moſt extenſive and delightful proſpect. In this pariſh there are about 530 inhabitants.

Lethnot ſurrounded by the Grampian mountains, is of conſiderable extent, but contains only about 500 inhabitants. There is a remarkable rich vein of ſtone marl, and many chalybeate ſprings here.

Cortachy and Clova. Theſe united pariſhes form a Highland diſtrict of great extent, the extreme length of both being about 23 miles, their breadth uncertain. The Clova hills are part of the Grampians. On the banks of the Eſk, which runs through the pariſh, there are many delightful and romantic ſpots. The number of inhabitants is about 1020. The Earl of Airly and his brother, are proprietors of the whole pariſh.

Kirriemuir; its greateſt extent is between 7 and 8 miles both ways. The

The aſpect is hilly and uneven. There is a conſiderable quantity of natural wood, particularly in Glenproſen, which comprehends the north diſtrict of the pariſh. The number of inhabitants here is between 4 and 5000. Oſnaburgs, courſe linens, and ſhoes, to the value of nearly 40,000l. Sterling annually, are manufactured in this pariſh.

Forfar is of a very irregular form, its greateſt extent from north to ſouth is 6, and from eaſt to weſt 5 miles; it contains 4760 inhabitants. Excepting the hill of Balnaſhinar, the ſurface preſents a level proſpect. On the north and ſouth diſtricts the ſoil is light and thin, in other parts it is rather clayey and rocky. There were ſeveral fine lakes in this pariſh, but moſtly the whole been have drained to obtain the marl found in their beds. There is a conſiderable quantity of fine wood and planting on ſeveral eſtates. Forfar is a royal burgh of conſiderable antiquity, and the capital of the county of Angus or Forfar; it is alſo a preſbytery ſeat. The caſtle was a place of conſiderable ſtrength, and frequently made a royal reſidence. The chief manufacture is oſnaburgs for the Dundee market, which is their neareſt ſea-port town.

Reſcobie, pleaſantly ſituated between two hills, is of an irregular figure, the contents of which are between 16 and 18 ſquare miles; it contains about 940 inhabitants. The greater part is under culture, producing grain of various kinds, but chiefly peas and oats. This pariſh is well watered by lochs, which abound in marl, that called Reſcobie is the largeſt.

Aberlemno. This is an inland pariſh, extending from weſt to eaſt 6, and from north to ſouth about 5 miles; the number of inhabitants is 1040. The low grounds on the banks of the Eſk are rich and fertile, the higher part is rocky and thin, moſt of the hills are covered with heath; the beſt let at 20s. per acre, and the whole produces nearly 2000l. per annum. A good deal of coarſe linen is manufactured in the pariſh.

Ruthven is nearly a ſquare, containing about 1700 acres. It is pleaſantly ſituated at the foot of the Grampian mountains. Sloping gently to the ſouth, the ſoil is light and productive. The country is adorned both with natural wood, and plantations. The number of inhabitants is about 220.

Glentrathen meaſures 8 miles from north ſouth, and 4 from weſt to eaſt, and contains 900 inhabitants. It is hilly and mountainous; elevated on the Grampians, it has a bleak and barren aſpect.

Glenisla, a conſiderable glen thro' which the river Iſla runs, meaſuring about 19 miles in length, but only about 2 in breadth; it contains 1020 inhabitants. Moſt of the pariſh is naked and poor. Reeky Linn is a remarkable cataract, the perpendicular fall being nearly 80 feet. Here are the ruins of the two old caſtles of Forter and Newtown.

Kinnettles is an oblong ſquare, 4 miles long and 2 broad, containing about 620 inhabitants. The hill of Kinnettles nearly divides the pariſh. The incloſures and policy of Brigton, Kinnettles, and Inverighty, contribute to the ornament and utility of this quarter.

Kingoldrum is 7 miles from weſt to ſouth, and 2½ from eaſt to weſt. The aſpect of the whole is hilly and uneven. Oathaw hill is 2264 feet above the level of the ſea. Where cultivated it yields good barley and oats. The number of inhabitants is about 600.

Airly is of an irregular form, about 6 miles in length, and 4 in breadth. It contains 865 inhabitants. In the lower part it has a flat aſpect, though very uneven, it is moſtly incloſed, and well cultivated. Airly caſtle was long a ruin; lately an elegant modern houſe has been built upon its foundations.

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it is beautifully ſituated at the conflux of the rivers Iſla and Elm, and exceeds every thing of the kind in this country. The caſtle of Balrie, conſidered once as almoſt impregnable, exhibits only a few ruins. In Balrie moſs a ſtratum of ſhell marl, upwards of 16 feet thick, was diſcovered about 40 years ago, and has contributed much to the improvement of the country.

KETTINS from eaſt to weſt meaſures 4, and from north to ſouth 3 miles, containing 1100 inhabitants. It is in general flat, and incloſed with dykes and hedges; it has a gradual riſe to the Sidla hills. The ſoil is tolerably fertile, and well cultivated. At Baldowrie there is a Danish monument 6 feet high, having ſome figures carved upon it. Halliburton houſe, a modern manſion, now the property of Lord Aboyne, is pleaſantly ſituated in a plane ſurrounded with ſtately plantations.

TEALING lies along the ſouth ſide of the Sidlaw hills, extending from eaſt to weſt 3, and from north to ſouth about 2 miles, and containing 800 inhabitants. The cultivated part of the pariſh forms a plain, gently declining towards the ſouth. Craig-owl, the higheſt hill, meaſures 1100 feet from the plain, and 1600 above the ſea. From a variety of relics of various kinds, occaſionally found, there is little room to doubt, that the Romans had inhabited this corner.

MAINS of FINTRY, the length of this pariſh is 4, and the breadth at an average 2 miles; the number of inhabitants 880. From the water of Dighty, which runs from weſt to eaſt, and nearly interſects the pariſh; the ground riſes gradually on both ſides. The face of the country has a fine appearance, the whole almoſt is incloſed with hedges, and is remarkably well cultivated; the uſual rent is 30s. per acre. The old caſtle was long the reſidence of the Grahams of Fintry. In this ſmall ſpace there are 9 bleachfields, and no fewer than 33 mills of different kinds, driven by the river, in the courſe of 4 miles.

STRATHMARTIN is a ſmall pariſh about 2 miles ſquare, and contains 340 inhabitants. Dighty water runs through the middle of this pleaſant ſtrath, the ſoil is light, the air fine and healthy, and the inhabitants long-lived.

INVERARITY is a ſquare of about 3 miles, containing 900 inhabitants. It has a bleak and barren appearance from the want of incloſures; but the ſpirit of agriculture, now ſo general, makes good crops appear even on unpromiſing ſoil.

MONIKIE is 6 miles in length, and 4 in breadth, and contains 1280 inhabitants. The north quarter is hilly: to the ſouth it is pretty level and fertile. The want of good roads keeps back the improvements of this pariſh.

BARRIE extends about 3 miles from eaſt to weſt, and 4 from north to ſouth, and contains nearly 800 inhabitants. It has the advantage of the Tay and the ocean, from which the ground riſes abruptly, after which it continues flat. The ſoil is on the whole good, and produces grain of every kind. As in moſt other pariſhes of the county, the manufacture of linen is a principle object.

CARMYLIE extends from north to ſouth 4, and from eaſt to weſt 3 miles, and contains nearly 700 inhabitants. It is hilly and mountainous; but of late a ſpirit of agricultural improvement has changed the ſurface much, and meliorated it greatly. It yields 1000l. per annum.

LIFF and BENVIE are of a very irregular form. Their greateſt extent is 3 miles each way, and contain 1500 inhabitants. The ground riſes with an eaſy aſcent from the river Tay, interrupted, however, on the ſouth eaſt by the River Balgay. The general appearance is rich and pleaſing. The principal manufacture is weaving of linen for the Dundee market.

(To be continued.)

A CHRISTMAS TALE.

BY JOSEPH MOSER, ESQ.

Part the First.

DURING the ſuſpenſion of the Saxon laws, and oppreſſed by the government of the Romans, Adelfrid, a deſcendant of the Northumbrian Kings of the Heptarchy, lived in a remote part of that diſtrict, near the mouth of the Tweed, which was the line of ſeparation from the Scottiſh border.

In thoſe turbulent times, had Adelfrid been of a leſs warlike diſpoſition, his ſituation would have been both diſagreeable and dangerous; but, endeared to his dependants, not only by the poſſeſſion of the large demeſnes, but by ſucceeding alſo to the hereditary benevolence of his family, their attachment formed a ſtrong rampart againſt the deſultory incurſions of the borderers.

Frequently had he led his "kindred bands" to battle; frequently had he repelled thoſe hoſtile invaders; and by a ſeries of conqueſt, excited in them ſuch a terror of his name, that, however they might extend their depredations to other eſtates, they had for ſeveral years carefully avoided committing any acts of hoſtility upon the patrimony of the family of Adelfrid.

William Rufus, at that period the Engliſh monarch, a man whoſe penetrating genius and jealouſy of the Saxons pervaded every part of the iſland, turned his particular attention toward Northumberland; and by that means became acquainted with the character of Adelfrid, which, born on the wings of fame, was almoſt the general theme. Struck with the traits of valour, of juſtice, and benevolence, which it diſplayed, but at the ſame time fearful of the influence which theſe great and amiable qualities gave him, in a part of the country where the utmoſt danger was to be apprehended, he tore from him by the ſtrong hand of power ſeveral manors, reduced the number of his knights from two to one hundred, and, laſtly, commanded him to confine even his hunting excurſions to a certain diſtrict; and to uſe no means to repel the Scottiſh marauders, without firſt applying to the Lord Warden of the Marches.

Adelfrid was a wiſe and prudent man: he ſaw, with concern, that reſiſtance would be futile; therefore, whatever might have been his opinion of the treatment which his countrymen in general, and himſelf in particular, had received from the Norman, he ſilently ſubmitted to his decree.

To a caſtle ſituated upon a rock, which ſeemed to frown imperious on the turbulent ſurge, he retired. His retinue, although abridged, was ſtill numerous enough for the purpoſes of ſtate; and although he had loſt more than half of his tenants and vaſſals, he ſtill found objects ſufficient to call forth every exertion of his hoſpitality and benevolence.

Even in this retirement he heard the trumpet of war ſound at a diſtance: his love for his native country prompted him to arm his dependants and ruſh into the battle, but he was prohibited by a mandate from the monarch: he had therefore no concern in the victory that was obtained by the death of Malcolm the Scottiſh king, but he had the ſatisfaction of receiving into his caſtle ſome Saxon fugitives, whom Donald, his ſucceſſor, had driven out of the kingdom; among whom was Edgar Atheling, a prince who was conſidered as heir to the crown of England, and whoſe virtues rendered him equally popular in both nations.

Edgar introduced to Adelfrid a knight who accompanied him, by the name of Duncan, as a man of conſiderable importance in the kingdom whence they had ſo lately retreated. The Baron converſed much with him; and altho' he was of a ſaturnine caſt of countenance, and had alſo a keenneſs and aſperity in his obſervations which ſeemed well to correſpond with it, yet judging that theſe blemiſhes, if they could be ſo termed, had been the conſequence of his misfortunes, of which Edgar had informed him his portion had been large, he became much attached to him.

The Anglo-Saxons had a ſtrong tincture of religion, which, notwithſtanding the bad example that the infamous and debauched lives of the Normans daily preſented to them, they generally preſerved. Adelfrid was in this particular exemplary. He was a ſtrenuous aſſerter of the right, and as ſtrenuous a ſupporter of the cuſtoms of the church, as they had deſcended to him from his anceſtors.

Among theſe, he was particularly o
ſervant of the feſtival of our Saviou

Nativity, which he did not conſider, as many in thoſe rude ages did, as a ſeaſon of ſin and ſenſuality, but as a period when conviviality chaſtened by temperance, and benevolence corrected by diſcretion, ought to extend their influence to all his numerous tenants and dependants.

Ignorant as our Saxon anceſtors were, the Baron was an exception from this general misfortune. He knew that more than ten centuries had elapſed ſince this celebration became a rite of the church *. He alſo knew what deviation there had been in this reſpect from the conduct of thoſe primitive times. He would gladly have reſtored to it all its holineſs and ſimplicity; but finding that he had to combat the prejudice of ages, he was obliged to abandon his deſign; and as he could not totally reform, as much as he could repreſs the ribaldry and licentiouſneſs which had long obtained the appellations of mirth and hilarity.

On the morning of the Nativity of our Saviour, the ſtandard of the houſe of Adelfrid was diſplayed on the turret of his caſtle, as a ſignal for ſuch of his knights, tenants, and vaſſals, as inhabited its vicinity, to aſſemble. Divine ſervice was performed in the chapel with the utmoſt ſolemnity; as, in conſequence of the orders that had been given, it was in thoſe villages that lay remote from it.

When the Baron, his family, and numerous viſitors, had paid thoſe devotions, and performed thoſe offices of religion, which the ſeaſon demanded, the gates of the caſtle were thrown open, and the perſons appointed diſpenſed the uſual alms to the poor; which conſiſted of cloathing neceſſary for the climate and the time of the year, dried proviſions for their winter ſtore, and a number of *thrymas* † proportioned to the number of each family.

These indigent perſons were then conducted to large booths prepared for them, where they were ſerved with plenty of victuals and drink; and where, whilſt the chearful fires blazed on the hearths, the harpers ſung and recited the warlike deeds of their anceſtors, the praiſes of their Barons, and particularly thoſe actions of courage and beneficence for which the royal race of Adelfrid was diſtinguiſhed.

Such was the humility that had been practiſed in the family of the Baron, that it had long been a cuſtom for the repreſentative of it to attend with the firſt diſh at the table of the indigent. His lady, as they were in claſſes, waited at the ſecond, and his eldeſt ſon at the third: at each of which, his chamberlain or ſtewards preſented them with a cup of wine, in which they drank "Health and welcome" to their gueſts.

This was returned by ſhouts of joy and univerſal benedictions.

Adelfrid, Elinor the Baroneſs, and Offa their eldeſt ſon, having performed this ceremony, returned to the great hall, where a numerous train of knights, their ladies, and ſquires, waited to receive, and pay to them thoſe compliments which the ſeaſon demanded.

Target, the jeſter of the family, did not upon this occaſion appear until the ſound of the trumpet had thrice announced that the feaſt was prepared, and part of the company had taken their ſeats.

The Baron chid him for this want of attention, and aſked him, Where he had been? The jeſter, who, according to the licence of thoſe days, was indulged in great verbal liberty, replied, "To turn a feſtival into a faſt."

"How ſo?" aſked the Baron.

"I am," he continued, "juſt come from an ordinary where nothing but fiſh was provided. Or, to explain, I have this ſultry day been ſolacing myſelf in the river."

"What led you thither?"

"Folly! I had not wit enough to keep my feet dry, but followed a man that was a ſtill greater fool than myſelf."

"What man?"

"Duncan."

"Yes!"

* The firſt celebration of Chriſtmas, Eaſter, and Aſcenſion Days, was in the pontificate of St Lewis, coadjutor to St Peter, who became Pope the 29th of June 66.

† Thrymas were a ſmall Saxon ſilver coin, of the value of threepence. They were in ſome degree ſuppreſſed by William the Conqueror and his ſon, who, although they coined but little money, rather choſe that their revenues ſhould be paid into the exchequer in *black* ſilver, than in that of the Saxons. But this prohibition did not reach the country, particularly the North, where thrymas were ſtill current when the Saxon line was reſtored.

"Yes!" ſaid Duncan advancing: "This generous friend (for friend I ſhall ever eſteem him) ſaved my life at the hazard of his own! Walking near the edge of the cliff, ſtraining my eyes toward the oppoſite ſhore, and at the ſame time wrapt in thought, my uncautious feet, or rather abſent mind, betrayed me, and I fell into the river."

"There you was the fool!" cried Target.

"This man plunged in after me."—

"There I was the fool!" ſaid the jeſter.

"That," returned Duncan, "is far from being your real character, however you may aſſume it as a diſguiſe."

"Am I the only perſon in the hall that diſguiſes his real character?" Target replied to him in a whiſper.

Duncan ſtarted, but was ſilent; the entertainment proceeded, and the conviviality which this converſation had ſuſpended, revived.

When the tables were removed, the ſports, which conſiſted of recitations and ſongs by the bards and minſtrels attached to the family of Adelfrid, commenced. In theſe Target alſo made a conſpicuous figure: he was well acquainted with the kingdoms both of Scotland and England, and recollected a number of ſtories and anecdotes relating to the courts and characters of each, which were equally valuable for being either ſeaſoned with pleaſantry, or tinctured with morality. Grave as Duncan was, he frequently extorted from him a ſmile, and as frequently blunted the aſperity of his obſervations with ſallies of wit and good humour that delighted the whole company.

Darkneſs had long enveloped the earth and ocean, ſave only where the broad gleams of light from the windows of the brilliantly illuminated caſtle of Adelfrid, played upon the ſurface of the waves.

The younger part of the company now prepared to dance. The vaulted roof of the hall reverberated the ſprightly ſound of the tabor and pipe, while their feet beat time to the cadences of the muſic, which echoed through the long arcades of the caſtle.

Edgar Atheling and the beautiful Agatha, the daughter of Adelfrid, opened the ball. Offa danced with the no leſs lovely Bertha, a ward of the Baron's. The more elderly knights and ladies were placed on ſeats ſurrounding the hall, their ſquires attended by them, and even the vaſſals and principal domeſtics filled the galleries.

Whilſt thus within the caſtle all were devoted to joy and hilarity; whilſt every face ſhone with pleaſure, and every voice was attuned to the rapture of the moment, a ſtorm raged without. Target, who had ſometime ſince diſappeared, abruptly entered the hall. The entrance of the jeſter was conſidered as a ſignal for the increaſe of mirth. The company gathered about him, ready to aim the ſhafts of their wit, and to receive his repartees.

He had not yet ſpoken a word; but the gravity of his countenance, and his agitation, which was thought to be aſſumed, as the prelude to ſome pleaſantry, cauſed the juvenile part of them to ſalute him with a peal of laughter. This he, in an inſtant, repreſſed by exclaiming, "Spare, Oh, ſpare your ill-timed mirth! With jeſting I have done for ever! My noble, my generous Lord Adelfrid, if ever there was a ſcene calculated to excite thoſe emotions of humanity and compaſſion, hereditary to your houſe, follow me and behold it!"

Mirth at this moment fled, the muſic ceaſed, and now the company diſtinctly heard the ſhrieks of human voices. Target ſnatched a torch and ruſhed out of the hall; ſeveral of the knights did the ſame; the Baron and the reſt of his male viſitors attended.

They all made towards the cliff; the wind in hoarſe murmurs raged againſt the towers, ramparts, and battlements; the billows with unremitting fury laſhed the reſounding ſhore; the rain beat; their torches were in an inſtant extinguiſhed; yet ſtill the company, joined by a numerous band of peaſants, whom the ſtorm and ſhrieks had equally alarmed, proceeded to the cliff, guided only by thoſe broad gleams of light from the windows of the caſtle; when, dreadful to behold, they could diſcern a veſſel in the moſt imminent danger of daſhing againſt the rock.

The Baron with uplifted hands and eyes invoked the aſſiſtance of Heaven; "for," ſaid he, "from the ſituation of theſe poor creatures, I fear all human aid will be ineffectual! Where is the man," he continued, "that will venture to aſſiſt theſe mariners?"

"That will I!" ſaid Duncan.

"And I alſo!" exclaimed Target.

"And I!" ſaid Offa.

The peaſants with one voice cried, "We are ready to uſe our outmoſt exertions!"

"Then follow me!" ſaid Target; who, with the greateſt agility, ſlid down the precipice, and climbing over immenſe maſſes of ſtone, led them to a place where, under the ſhelter of a prominent rock, lay, as he knew, a ſmall veſſel belonging to the Baron.

Target, Duncan, and ſeveral of the men, who were mariners or fiſhermen, inſtantly leaped on board; and, notwithſtanding the contention of the elements, ſuch was their ſkill, that they weathered the cliff, and made toward the place where they had diſcerned the ſhip. The ſhip was no longer to be ſeen: the hurricane increaſed; the billows ran mountain high; thunder, unuſual in that ſeaſon and northern climate, ſeemed to rend the heavens, while the atmoſphere appeared one blaze of fire.

Although their own ſafety now became, in a conſiderable degree, the object of their care, yet their humanity impelled them ſtill further to explore the coaſt. Guided only by the inceſſant flaſhes of lightning, they ſuffered their veſſel to drive before the wind, until they came under an immenſe precipice which overhung the ocean, while the rocks beneath cauſed a whirlpool. In this dangerous ſituation they diſcovered the ſhip which was the object of their ſearch: ſhe was juſt ſinking. Benevolence would not ſuffer them to liſten to the dictates of prudence: they run alongſide of her, and one minute only elapſed, during which Target received a child, and Duncan a lady in his arms, while three or four ſailors leaped on board, the reſt of the crew and female attendants were inſtantly ſwallowed in the unfathomable abyſs.

What now was the ſituation of theſe ſea-girt fugitives?—Almoſt as deplorable as that from which they had eſcaped! All the nautical ſkill of Target, and all the exertions of the pilot and mariners, aided by their intimate knowledge of the coaſt, would have been inſufficient to have enabled them to ſteer their veſſel clear of the rocks, had not the violence of the ſtorm, in a fortunate minute, ſubſided, and the light from the caſtle, which the Baron ordered to be increaſed, ſerved as a beacon to guide them to the creek. By a rugged and circuitous path Duncan, aided by the mariners and peaſants, carried the lady round the cliff to the caſtle. Target followed with the child.

Thus they arrived at the great hall, where Elinor the Baroneſs, Agatha, Bertha, and the ladies, who had been appriſed of their approach, waited to receive them. Elinor advanced with open arms; at the ſame inſtant Duncan exclaimed, "Matilda! my wife!" and the lady, faintly repeating "Walter," ſunk upon his boſom.

Target had juſt entered with the child in his arms; the light from the chandelier ſhone full upon the face of the apparently lifeleſs lady, as ſhe was ſupported by Duncan and Elinor.—Struck with her features he ſtarted: Agatha, obſerving his emotion, caught the child from him, while throwing himſelf at the feet, and taking the hand of the fair ſufferer, he cried—"My ſiſter! my lovely and beloved Matilda!—my ſiſter!"

The hall, ſo lately enlivened by mirth and gaiety, was now become a ſcene of ſorrow and confuſion. Adelfrid, Edgar, Offa, the Baroneſs, the knights, and ladies, every one ſpoke, every one preſſed forward to offer aſſiſtance. What aſſiſtance was neceſſary, or how to apply it, ſeemed likely to be a ſubject of contention, until the prudent Elinor commanded ſilence; then ordering Matilda and her child to be conveyed to her own chamber, and attended only by Agatha and Bertha, left her lord to uſe his efforts to reſtore the company to a ſtate of tranquillity.

(To be continued.)

REVIEW

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

An Enquiry into the Duties of the Female Sex. By Thomas Gisborne, M. A. 8vo. 6s. Boards. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

THIS volume abounds with practical good ſenſe, juſt precept, cautious conſeil, and elegant inſtruction, conveyed in eaſy and ſtriking language. As a ſpecimen we tranſcribe a part of the 9th chapter, which treats of the duties antecedent to marriage; the cautions contained in the quotation cannot be too frequently enforced.

"THE foundation of the greater portion of the unhappineſs which clouds matrimonial life, is to be ſought in the unconcern ſo prevalent in the world, as to thoſe radical principles on which character and the permanence of character depend,—the principles of religion. Popular language indicates the ſtate of popular opinion. If an union about to take place, or recently contracted, between two young perſons, is mentioned in converſation, the firſt queſtion we hear aſked concerned it is, whether it be *a good match*. The very countenance and voice of the inquirer, and of the anſwerer, the terms of the anſwer returned, and the obſervations, whether expreſſive of ſatisfaction or of regret, which fall from the lips of the company preſent in the circle, all concur to ſhew what, in common eſtimation, is meant by being well married. If a young woman be deſcribed as thus married, the terms imply, that ſhe is united to a man whoſe rank and fortune is ſuch, when compared with her own or thoſe of her parents, that in point of precedence, in point of command of finery and of money, ſhe is, more or leſs, a gainer by the bargain. They imply, that ſhe will now poſſeſs the enviable advantages of taking place of other ladies in the neighbourhood; of decking herſelf out with jewels and lace; of inhabiting ſplendid apartments; rolling in handſome carriages; gazing on numerous ſervants in gaudy liveries; and of going to London, and other faſhionable ſcenes of reſort, in a degree ſomewhat higher than that in which a calculating broker, after poring on her pedigree, ſumming up her property in hand, and computing, at the market price, what is contingent or in reverſion, would have pronounced her entitled to them. But what do the terms imply as to the character of the man ſelected to be her huſband? Probably nothing. His character is a matter which ſeldom enters into the conſideration of the perſons who uſe them, unleſs it, at length, appears in the ſhape of an afterthought, or is awkwardly hitched into their remarks for the ſake of decorum. If the terms imply any thing, they mean no more than that he is not ſcandalouſly and notoriouſly addicted to vice. He may be proud, he may be ambitious, he may be malignant, he may be devoid of Chriſtian principles, practice, and belief; or, to try the very leaſt, it may be totally unknown whether he does not fall, in every particular, under this deſcription; and yet, in the language, and in the opinion of the generality of the ſexes, the match is excellent. In ſome manner a ſmall diminution in the ſuppoſed advantages already enumerated, though counterpoiſed by the acquiſition of a companion eminent for his virtues, is ſuppoſed to conſtitute a bad match; and is univerſally lamented in polite meetings with real or affected concern. The good or bad fortune of a young man in the choice of a wife is eſtimated according to the ſame rules.

"From thoſe who contract marriages, either chiefly, or in a conſiderable degree, through motives of intereſt or of ambition, it would be folly to expect previous ſolicitude reſpecting piety of heart. And it would be equal folly to expect that ſuch marriages, however they may anſwer the purpoſes of intereſt or of ambition, ſhould terminate otherwiſe than in wretchedneſs. Wealth may be ſecured, rank may be obtained; but if wealth and rank are to be main ingredients in the cup of matrimonial felicity, the ſweetneſs of the wine will be exhauſted at once, and nothing remain but bitter and corroſive dregs. When attachments are free from the contamination of ſuch unworthy motives, it by no means always follows that ſuch attention is paid to intrinſic excellence of moral character. Affection, quick-ſighted in diſcerning, and diligent in ſcrutiniſing, the

the minuteſt circumſtances which contribute to ſhew whether it is met with reciprocal ſincerity and ardor, is, in other reſpects, purblind and inconſiderate. It magnifies good qualities which exiſt; it ſeems to itſelf to perceive merits which, to her eyes, are invisible; it gives credit for what it wiſhes to diſcover; it enquires not, where it fears a diſappointment. Yet, what ſecurity can a woman have for happineſs in marriage, if the only foundation on which confidence can be fitely repoſed, be wanting? And ought ſhe not, in common prudence, to conſider it as wanting, until ſhe is thoroughly convinced of its exiſtence? He whoſe ruling principle is that of ſtedfaſt obedience to the laws of God, has a pledge to give, and it is a pledge worthy of being truſted, that he will diſcharge his duty to his fellow-creatures, according to the different relations in which he may be placed. Every other bond of confidence is brittle as a thread, and looks ſpecious only to prove deluſive. A woman who receives for her huſband a perſon of whoſe moral character ſhe knows no more than that it is outwardly decent, ſtakes her welfare upon a very hazardous experiment. She who marries a man not entitled even to that humble praiſe, in the hope of reclaiming him, ſtakes it on an experiment in which there is ſcarce a probability of her ſucceſs.

Among various abſurd and miſchievous leſſons which young women were accuſtomed in the laſt age to learn from dramatic repreſentations, one of the moſt abſurd and miſchievous was this: that a man of vicious character was particularly likely, when once reformed, to make a good and exemplary huſband. At the concluſion of almoſt every comedy, the hero of the piece, ſtigmatized throughout its progreſs by qualities and conduct radically incompatible with the exiſtence of matrimonial happineſs, was introduced upon the ſtage as having experienced a ſudden change of heart, and become a convert, as by a miracle, to the ways of religion and virtue. The ſame prepoſterous reformation occaſionally finds a place in compoſitions of modern date. The reaſons which have induced many writers, by no means unſkilled in the ſcience of human nature, to conſtruct their dramas on a plan ſo unnatural, are evident. Following the bent of his own contaminated mind, or ſolicitous only to ſuit the taſte of a corrupted audience, the author conceived immorality ſeaſoned with wit to furniſh the moſt copious and attractive fund of entertainment. He formed his plot, drew his characters, and arranged his incidents, accordingly. His cataſtrophe was to turn on the uſual hinge, marriage. But though he had, without ſcruple, exhibited his hero through four entire acts, and three quarters of the fifth, as unprincipled; yet in the final ſcene to unite him unprincipled as he was to the lady of his wiſhes, a lady too whom it had been found convenient to repreſent throughout the drama in a much more reſpectable light than her intended huſband, was an indecorum too flagrant to be hazarded. For form's ſake, therefore, it was neceſſary that an inſtantaneous reformation ſhould be ſuppoſed to be wrought in his heart. Let the female ſex be aſſured, that whenever on the ſtage of real life an irreligious and immoral young man is ſuddenly found, when on the eve of matrimony, to change his external conduct, and to recommend himſelf by profeſſions of a determination to amend; the probability that the change is adopted, as in the theatre, for the ſake of form and convenience, and that it will not be durable after the purpoſes of form and convenience ſhall have been anſwered by it, is one of thoſe which approach the neareſt to certainty."

Mr Gilborne ſtrongly admoniſhes his female reader againſt the iniquitous character of a coquette, in the following terms:

"To delude a young man by encouraging his attentions for the pleaſure of exhibiting him as a conqueſt, for the purpoſe of exciting the aſſiduities of another perſon, or from any motive except the impulſe of mutual regard, is a proceeding too plainly repugnant to juſtice, and to delicacy of ſentiment, to require much obſervation. On ſuch ſubjects, even inadvertence is highly culpable. What, then, is the guilt of her, who deliberately raiſes hopes which ſhe is reſolved not to fulfil."

The

The Works of Sir Joſhua Reynolds, late Preſident of the Royal Academy: containing his Diſcourſes, Idlers, a Journey to Flanders and Holland, and his Commentary on Du Freſnoy's Art of Painting; printed from his reviſed copies (with his laſt Corrections and Additions) in 2 Vols. To which is prefixed, an Account of the Life and Writings of the Author. By Edward Malone, Eſq; one of his Executors. 4to. 1l. 16s. Cadell and Davies.

THOUGH there are not, in theſe volumes, many productions of the excellent author, which have not before, in ſome form or other, been laid before the public, yet by every friend of the arts, and admirer of original genius, the works of Sir Joſhua Reynolds, in a collective form, with his life, written by one of the moſt intimate of his friends, muſt be eſteemed a valuable acquiſition. It may be obſerved alſo, that the part which is now firſt publiſhed, his Journey to Flanders and Holland, is of a nature peculiarly intereſting; as it contains not the trivial remarks of an ordinary traveller; nor, what is not unuſual, a collection from various common books, but the original criticiſms of a great painter, upon ſome of the moſt capital works of very celebrated artiſts.

It is mentioned by Mr Malone, that, among the papers of Sir Joſhua, were found ſome hints for a Diſcourſe, on a new and ſingular plan, intended to be delivered to the Royal Academy. The plan was, to give a hiſtory of his mind, ſo far as concerned his art; of his progreſs, ſtudies, and practice; with a view of the advantages he had enjoyed, and of the diſadvantages under which he had laboured. It is certainly much to be regretted, that this ſketch of a deſign, ſo very uſeful to ſtudents in painting, and to the philoſopher ſo intereſting and curious, was never filled up. Some ſpecimens from theſe papers, given by Mr Malone, increaſe our regret. The firſt of theſe paſſages contains a very curious account of his feelings on firſt contemplating the works of Raphael, in which he deſcribes himſelf as diſappointed in not experiencing the ſtrong effect which he had expected. His mind was, he ſays, relieved by finding afterwards, on enquiry, "that thoſe perſons only, who, from natural imbecility, appeared to be incapable of ever reliſhing thoſe divine performances, made pretenſions to inſtantaneous raptures on firſt beholding them." The works of Raphael are to be ſtudied before they can be truly reliſhed. The excellence of his ſtyle, ſays this admirable judge of it, "is not on the ſurface, but lies deep; and, at the firſt view, is ſeen but miſtily. It is the florid ſtyle which ſtrikes at once, and captivates the eye for a time, without ever ſatisfying the judgment." The whole of this paſſage is curious and valuable; but we rather chooſe to give a ſight of the ſecond ſpecimen of theſe hints, which contains his acknowledgement of the benefits he derived from the great Johnſon.

"I remember," ſays he, "Mr Burke ſpeaking of the Eſſays of Sir Francis Bacon, ſaid, he thought them the beſt of his works. Dr Johnſon was of opinion, "that their excellence and their value conſiſted in being the obſervations of a ſtrong mind operating upon life; and in conſequence you find there what you ſeldom find in other books."—It is this kind of excellence which gives a value to the performances of artiſts alſo. It is the thoughts expreſſed in the works of Michael Angelo, Coreggio, Raphael, Parmegiano, and perhaps ſome of the old Gothic maſters, and not the inventions of Pietro da Cortona, Carlo Marati, Luca Giordano, and others that I might mention, which we ſeek after with avidity. From the former we learn to think originally. May I preſume to introduce myſelf on this occaſion, and even to mention, as an inſtance of the truth of what I have remarked, the very Diſcourſes which I have had the honour of delivering from this place. Whatever merit they have, muſt be imputed, in a great meaſure, to the education which I may be ſaid to have had under Dr Johnſon. I do not mean to ſay, though it certainly would be to the credit of theſe Diſcourſes if I could ſay it with truth, that he contributed even a ſingle ſentiment to them; but he qualified my mind to think juſtly. No man had, like him, the faculty of teaching inferior minds the art of thinking. Perhaps other men might have equal knowledge; but few were ſo communicative. His great

plea-

pleasure was to talk to those who look-ed up to him. It was here he exhibited his wonderful powers. In mixed company, and frequently in company that *ought* to have looked up to him, many, thinking they had a character for learning to support, considered it as beneath them to enlist in the train of his auditors; and to such persons he certainly did not appear to advantage, being often impetuous and overbearing. The desire of shining in conversation was in him indeed a predominant passion; and if it must be attributed to vanity, let it at the same time be recollected, that it produced that loquaciousness from which his more intimate friends derived considerable advantage. The observations which he made on poetry, on life, and on every thing about us, I applied to our art; with what success others must judge. Perhaps an artist in his studies should pursue the same conduct; and instead of poaching up a particular work on the narrow plan of imitation, rather endeavour to acquire the art and power of thinking. On this subject I have often spoken; but it cannot be too often repeated, that the general power of composition may be acquired; and when acquired, the artist may then lawfully take hints from his predecessors. In reality indeed it appears to me, that a man must begin by the study of others. Thus Bacon became a great thinker, by first entering into and making himself master of the thoughts of other men."

On the Academical Discourses of Sir Joshua Reynolds, it is unnecessary to expatiate. The greater part of them have not only been published here, but translated into foreign languages, and admired wherever they have been seen. They contain the indelible proofs of those advantages which we have just explained by himself. We hasten to his journey into Flanders, which took place in the summer of the year 1781; at a period of his life when his judgment was fully matured by time, by study, and by practice. The remarks are confined wholly to painting, and include criticisms on all the pictures of any value, exhibited in those countries: and among the names of the artists appear some which are very little known to the connoisseurs of England. Rubens, however, prevails; and with his character, given at large, the performance concludes. Mr Philip Metcalfe was the companion of Sir Joshua in this journey. When he quits Flanders, he takes leave of history-painting, and there he subjoins a few observations on the disadvantages of the Arts in our own country. The exclusion of pictures from churches, after the Reformation, is the cause he assigns for the deficiency of historical painters among us. "How far this circumstance may be the cause that no Protestant country has ever produced a history painter, may be," he says, "worthy of consideration." After arguing in favour of such ornaments to churches, he adds,

"Many other causes have been assigned, why History (painting) has never flourished in this country; but with such a reason at hand we need not look farther. Let there be buyers, who are the true Maecenases, and we shall soon see sellers, vying with each other in the variety and excellence of their works. To those who think that wherever genius is, it must, like fire, blaze out, this argument is not addressed; but those who consider it not as a gift, but a power, acquired by long labour and study, should reflect that no man is likely to undergo the fatigue required to carry any art to any degree of excellence, to which after he has done, the world is likely to pay no attention."

We shall conclude with the character of Sir Joshua, drawn by Mr Burke soon after his death.

"His illness was long, but borne with a mild and cheerful fortitude, without the least mixture of any thing irritable, or querulous, agreeably to the placid and even tenour of his whole life. He had, from the beginning of his malady, a distinct view of his dissolution; and he contemplated it with that entire composure, which nothing but the innocence, integrity, and usefulness of his life, and an unaffected submission to the will of Providence, could bestow. In this situation, he had every consolation from family tenderness which his own kindness had indeed well deserved.

"Sir Joshua Reynolds was, on very many accounts, one of the most memorable men of his time. He was the first Englishman, who added the pride of the elegant arts to the other glories of his country. In taste, in grace, in facility, in happy invention, and in the

richneſs and harmony of colouring, he was equal to the great maſters of the renowned ages. In portrait he went beyond them; for he communicated to that deſcription of the art, in which Engliſh artiſts are the moſt engaged, a variety, a fancy, and a dignity derived from the higher branches, which even thoſe who profeſſed them in a ſuperior manner, did not always preſerve, when they delineated individual nature. His portraits remind the ſpectator of the invention of hiſtory, and the amenity of landſcape. In painting portraits, he appeared not to be raiſed on that platform, but to deſcend to it from a higher ſphere. His paintings illuſtrate his leſſons, and his leſſons ſeem to be derived from his paintings.

"He poſſeſſed the theory as perfectly as the practice of his art. To be ſuch a painter, he was a profound and penetrating philoſopher. In full affluence of foreign and domeſtic fame, admired by the expert in art, and by the learned in ſcience, courted by the great, careſſed by Sovereign Powers, and celebrated by diſtinguiſhed poets, his native humility, modeſty, and candour, never forſook him, even on ſurpriſe or provocation; nor was the leaſt degree of arrogance or aſſumption viſible to the moſt ſcrutinizing eye, in any part of his conduct or diſcourſe.

"His talents of every kind, powerful from nature, and not meanly cultivated by letters; his ſocial virtues in all the habitudes of life, rendered him the centre of a very great and unparalleled variety of agreeable ſocieties, which will be diſſipated by his death. He had too much merit not to excite ſome jealouſy, too much innocence to provoke any enmity. The loſs of no man of his time can be felt with more ſincere, general, and unmixed ſorrow.

Hail! and farewell!"

Three Memorials on French Affairs, written in the Years 1791, 1792, *and* 1793. By the late Right Hon. Edmund Burke. 2s. 6d. *Rivingtons.*

COPIES of ſome of the late Mr Burke's papers, in different ſtates of correctneſs, having been detained by fraud by a perſon, who, as it appears, had been relieved in the deepeſt diſtreſs by his bounty, are now advertiſed for publication, by the perſon to whom they were really intruſted.

Many particulars relating to the character of this very diſtinguiſhed man, are to be found in the finely written preface. No man's mind was ever more fertile in moral and political principles than that of Mr Burke: and when theſe principles are compared with thoſe which have long poſſeſſed the ſanction of wiſdom and of virtue, although their originality be evident at the firſt glance, the moſt deciſive marks of family reſemblance prove their legitimacy. In this, which may be called the opulence of thought, which is to be acquired only by the direction of the fineſt faculties in the beſt manner, if he has had equals, he never had a ſuperior. The ſtyle of his different works was various; in ſome it was ſimple and didactic, in others, ornamented in the higheſt degree that a chaſtened judgment can permit; and, among men of ſo great an elevation of genius, he is one of thoſe who beſt knew, and leaſt frequently exceeded, its limits. The character of his imagery was alternately that of a rich amenity and ſolemn greatneſs. In pathetic or ſplendid deſcription, he was, in his day, without a rival: he much excelled in moral ſentiment, in every variety of manner; and he made it ſubſervient to the taſk of impreſſing upon his readers the emotions of an affectionate melancholy or benevolence; of piety; or the ardent energy of indignant virtue. Moral irony, the keeneſt lance of the higher ſatire, he frequently employed, and with the higheſt juſtice and efficacy. All theſe ornaments appear in his writings as in their proper places: for, as even the middle tenor of his compoſitions was rich, none of them ſeemed to riſe abruptly above the reſt.

We come now to the examination of the tracts contained in this firſt poſthumous publication. A ſingle object is purſued in them; namely, to point out the ſyſtem of politics proper to be followed by Great Britain, in foreign affairs, in conſequence of the actual and probable changes of the ſtate of Europe, from the French Revolution. The pieces which compoſe it, are arranged according to their dates; and in point of order, as obſerved above, every thing here is unexceptionable: the title-page announces the number of theſe tracts to be three; a fourth was diſcovered before publication, and is

inſerted in its place. This precedes the reſt in date, and is not a memorial, but, as it is entitled, "Hints for a Memorial," to be delivered to Monſ. Montmorin; written in the beginning of 1791. It was on the occaſion of Louis XVI. becoming an actual priſoner to a body of conſpirators; the more active and flagitious part of whom, afterwards depoſed and murdered him. In this draft of a memorial, the Britiſh ambaſſador is made to offer the mediation of Great Britain, between the King and his ſubjects; to reſtore the former to his parental freedom, and a modified ſovereignty, and the latter to a free conſtitution; and, in caſe of the rejection of this mediation, to declare that his inſtructions were to withdraw from France. All conſideration of the policy or the right of ſuch interpoſition, may here very well be waved, as it appears, from a curious note in the appendix to theſe tracts, that the full obligation reſulting from the public faith given to the houſe of Bourbon, would have engaged us much further; it thus appears.

By the treaty of Urecht, in conjunction with that of 1717, called *the Triple Alliance*, England and France mutually guaranteed the ſucceſſion of the crown in each ſtate, as by law eſtabliſhed, to the houſes of Hanover and Bourbon, againſt all rebellion, on account of the ſaid ſucceſſion; *or under any other pretext whatſoever:* and in caſe of ſuch rebellion, either nation was to ſuccour the ſovereign of the other, with 8000 foot and 2000 horſe: theſe aids were never required by us from the Court of France. But, in the perfect ſpirit of thoſe treaties, the regent of that kingdom, after the death of Louis XIV. and, at the period of the greateſt danger of the Houſe of Hanover, uſed every other exertion to fruſtrate two rebellions; and then was highly inſtrumental in ſaving us from two civil wars; and it was agreed by the laſt definitive treaty of peace, in 1783, that the treaty of Utrecht, as well as that of 1717, ſhould be preſerved in future, "in its full tenor, and religiouſly executed by both parties."

A ſovereign not in poſſeſſion of his liberty, is, *ipſo facto*, depoſed: and if, as it is inſinuated by Mr Burke, (and which was matter of univerſal notoriety, Louis XVI. was at that time effectualy deprived of his liberty, as we were then compelled by the laſt treaty, to take up arms for his reſtoration, it was undoubtedly regular, firſt to attempt it by an amicable mediation, together with "the ſettlement of a free conſtitution in France;" and if the freedom of the King were not ſo attainable, to recall our miniſter.

The ſecond piece of this collection, the title of which is, "Thoughts on French Affairs," was written in December, 1791. It conſiders the effects of the revolution, on the ſituation of Europe, in a moſt extenſive manner; and is a memorial laid before ſome of the leading members of oppoſition, and the miniſters. *Brit. Critic.*

Plans for the Defence of Great Britain and Ireland. By Lieutenant-Colonel Dirom, Deputy Quarter-Maſter-General in North Britain. 8vo. 2s. 6d. ſewed. *Cadell jun. and Davies.*

AS this work regards a ſubject of the utmoſt importance at the preſent period, we ſhall endeavour to give ſome analyſis of it.

Col. D. begins with ſenſibly pointing out the difficulties attending the enemy's advancing into the country, from their want of cavalry and artillery; the horſes for which could not be brought over without a vaſt fleet; and it is our own buſineſs to prevent their getting horſes here. He then propoſes the thoroughly conſtitutional meaſure of "arming a conſiderable portion of the reſident inhabitants of the country." This ſcheme is in a great degree eſtabliſhed by the preſent volunteer corps.

"Forts (ſays the Colonel) are either very advantageous, or very prejudicial in the defence of a country." They are advantageous if ſufficiently ſtrong to compel the enemy to commence a regular ſiege; but prejudicial if weak, "as they would, when taken, greatly ſtrengthen the enemy's line of operation, and facilitate his progreſs into the country. Therefore, upon the commencement of a war, the forts, which may appear to be eſſential for the defence of the country, ought to be completely repaired and victualled for a ſiege; or they ought to be entirely diſmantled or abandoned." Theſe remarks would be very juſt if we meant to take meaſures only againſt a formidable invaſion; but our not being able ſtrongly

ſtrongly to fortify our whole line of coaſt is ſurely no reaſon for leaving our ſmaller towns open to the depredations of a privateer, or flying ſquadron. Many inſtances have occurred, during this war, of ſhipping being ſaved by ſmall forts and batteries. The Colonel, however, continues:—"Upon conſidering what has been ſtated, it will appear to be particularly dangerous, in the defence of an iſland, to have a fortreſs contiguous to the coaſt, becauſe the enemy can bring his cannon and whole force againſt it, and ſupply his army during the ſiege without the aſſiſtance of land carriage. Such dire experience had there been in Scotland of this inconveniency, that in 1567 an act of parliament was paſſed in this kingdom for demoliſhing the caſtle of Dunbar, and the fort of Inchkeith, to *prevent their being of any uſe to an enemy*." We will not diſcuſs the policy of this conduct in 1567, when, from the inſignificance of their navy, the Scotch might deſpair of defending or relieving their iſlands and maritime poſts: but we ſhould deem ſuch an act highly injudicious at preſent; ſince, from the very different relative ſituations of the protecting and invading navies, we ſhould naturally wiſh the enemy to be detained as long as poſſible on the coaſt, that our fleet might have time to collect, and to attack him. As a proof of what a few guns will ſometimes effect, and that we do not differ from the intelligent author without reaſon, we ſhall relate a circumſtance that came within our knowledge, reſpecting the very town of Dunbar which the Colonel has mentioned. In the beginning of the year 1781, while the writer of this article happened to be in Scotland, that ſucceſsful free-booter the notorious Fall appeared off the town, and in a pompous manner ſummoned it to ſurrender. There were at that time no military, nor even an armed aſſociation, within eight miles: but the provoſt, a reſpectable merchant, (and who, as was remarkable, bore the ſame name with the free-booter,) ſent a defiance to Capt. Fall, who in revenge immediately opened his fire, and ſent ſeveral ſhots on ſhore. The worthy provoſt, however, having collected the reſident ſeamen, got up a ſhip's gun or two on the ſcite of the old works; and one of his firſt ſhots paſſing immediately over the privateer's quarter-deck, the commander filled his ſails, and precipitately made off. After this attack, an encloſed battery was erected.

Judicious plans are alſo given for driving the coaſt, forming magazines, and for the diſpoſition of the army againſt an invading enemy; followed by *Reflections on the Neceſſity of a permanent Syſtem of Defence for Great Britain and Ireland.*

"Upon the breaking out of a new war, (ſays Col. D.) we find, alas! that we have no force. Every plan, however diſcordant in a general ſyſtem of defence, is then adopted, and every means muſt be uſed to *raiſe men:* and even *rank in the army*, which ought to be the ſacred reward of ſervice and merit, is ſacrificed, and its diſcipline thrown looſe to increaſe its numbers." To obviate theſe evils, the Colonel returns to his plan of a general volunteer militia, compoſed of reſident inhabitants properly ſelected. In proof of the utility and practicability of this ſcheme, he reminds us "that the ſtates of Greece, and even Rome itſelf, were, during the periods of their freedom, defended by a militia; in which every man, of an age to bear arms, who had a houſe, a family, or property to protect, was enrolled, and into which it was an honour to be admitted." He then inſtances the modern Swiſs; who, while they have improved their country and increaſed their population, have preſerved their independence by a barrier of bayonets, "becauſe their diſcipline is made ſubſervient to their manufactures and agriculture." To come nearer home, the Colonel mentions our own Weſt India Iſlands. "In Jamaica, lately, the fierce and ſtubborn Maroons were not ſubdued by the few regular troops ſtationed in that iſland, but by the exertions and activity of a militia, inured to the climate, and acquainted with the inmoſt receſſes of a wooded and mountainous country."

Having ſhewn the utility of numerous bands of creditable volunteers, in addition to the regular militia and ſtanding army, as part of our permanent eſtabliſhment, the author adds that, "in order to prevent uncertainty, as to the numbers and force which may be depended upon, it is neceſſary that the volunteers ſhould be inrolled to ſerve for a certain time, which ſhall

be limited to one year." The men are to have a small proportion of pay, merely sufficient to compensate for the loss of the time employed in exercise: on a calculation of which, it appears that we may maintain 126,000 trained volunteers, ready to assemble at an hour's notice, for the expence of 10,000 regulars.

Many other useful suggestions are added, which we warmly recommend to the consideration of those who have more power than we have, "to render these hitherto happy united kingdoms impregnable to both internal and external enemies; to promote every where the security of the British Empire: and, under the favour of Divine Providence, to maintain that pre-eminence among nations by which we have been so long distinguished as a warlike, a virtuous, and an industrious people."

M. Review.

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POETRY.

POETRY.

ODE

FOR THE YEAR M,DCC,XCVIII.

BY HENRY JAMES PYE, ESQ.
POET LAUREAT.

WHEN genial zephyr's balmy wing
Fans with soft plume the flowery vale,
Each tender scion of the spring
Expanding owns the fostering gale,
And smiles each sunny glade around,
With vegetable beauty crown'd;
But when the whirlwinds of the north
Burst in tempestuous vengeance forth,
Before the thunder of the storm
Each spreading tree of weaker form
Or bends to earth, or lies recliu'd,
Torn by the fury of the wind;
Then proudly 'mid the quivering shade
Stands the firm oak in native strength array'd,
Waves high his giant branches, and defies
The elemental war that rends the skies.
Deep-rooted in this kindred soil,
So Freedom here through many an age
Has mock'd Ambition's fruitless toil,
And Treason's wiles, and Faction's rage;
And as the stormy ruin pass'd
Which Anarchy's rude breath had blown,
While Europe, bending to the blast,
Beholds her fairest realms o'erthrown;
Alone Britannia's happy isle,
Bless'd by a patriot Monarch's smile,
Amid surrounding storms uninjur'd stands,
Nor dreads the tempest's force that wastes her neighbour lands.
But see! along the darkling main
The gathering clouds malignant lower,
And, spreading o'er our wide domain,
Against our shores their thunders pour,
While treach'rous friends and daring foes
Around in horrid compass close—
Their swarming barks portentous spread
With crowded sails the watery glade;
When lo! imperial George commands—
Rush to the waves Britannia's veteran bands—
Unnumber'd hosts usurp in vain
Dominion o'er his briny reign;
His fleets their Monarch's right proclaim
With brazen throat, with breath of flame;
And captive in his ports their squadrons ride
Or mourn their shatter'd wrecks deep whelm'd beneath the tide.
From shore to shore, from pole to pole
Where'er wide ocean's billows roll,
From holy Ganges' tepid wave
To seas that tide Atlantic lave;
From hoary Greenland's frozen lands
To burning Lybia's golden sands,
Aloft the British ensign flies
In folds triumphant to the skies;
While to the notes that hail'd the isle
Emerging from its parent main,
The sacred Muse with raptur'd smile
Responsive pours the exulting strain—
"Rule, Britannia! rule the waves
"Britons never will be slaves."

FOR THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

A HYMN,

On Temperance, Justice, Mercy, Charity, &c.

Being a brief summary of Christian Morality.

By the Rev. W. ROSS.

WHO for the sordid joys of sin,
Would future bless forego,
His short liv'd pleasures to exchange,
For never ending woe?

Who that, with god-like reason blest,
To deathless joys aspires,
Can that immortal gift degrade,
Enslav'd by low desires?

Who longs these bless-ful realms to gain
Where living waters flow;
Or life's fair tree, where golden fruits,
The food of angels grow;

Who for the Eternal source of bliss
With holy fervour glows,
That would the joyous hope resign,
For all that earth bestows?

Know, mortals! know, ye thoughtless tribes,
Who folly's round have trod,
The noblest pleasures of the soul
Are centred all in God.

In God, the guardian of the just,
My trust, my treasure lies;
In God are all my hopes reposed,
Who all my wants supplies.

On life's tumultuous ocean toss'd,
When human aids betray,
He stills the storm, the clouds dispels,
And darkness turns to day.

By his indulgent bounty blest,
Rear'd by his tender care,
Can I, ungrateful, spurn his love,
And Satan's fetters wear?

Can I, to truth and virtue lost,
Against my God rebel?
Shall I my own destruction court,
League'd with the powers of hell?

With shame and sorrow, gracious God!
My follies I confess,
Each guilty thought, each rude desire,
Assist me to suppress.

Oh!

Oh! let thy wiſdom be my guide,
Thy glory be my aim,
Reſolv'd by Truth's unerring law
My future life to frame.

Teach me thoſe fatal ſteps to ſhun,
Where ſtings and death annoy,
Where guilt and fear our preſent peace,
And future hopes deſtroy.

Bewilder'd in her magic maze,
Where Vice the wanderer leads,
Till on deſtruction's giddy brink,
The trembling victim treads.

In ſocial intercourſe, may I,
From fraud and falſehood free,
Do that to others, which I would
Have others do to me.

Nor juſtice only be my law,
And equity my guide,
Let mercy and beneficence
O'er all my ways preſide.

Should wicked men, though unprovok'd,
Againſt my peace offend,
Though their malevolence my heart
With grief and pity rend;

Let no malignant paſſion there
A moment's harbour find,
But may my boſom burn with love
To THEE, and all mankind.

While journeying through this vale of death,
May Heav'n my thoughts employ,
Beholding with the eye of faith,
Thoſe realms of endleſs joy.

Panting for that immortal crown
To conſtancy decreed,
Which, though my virtues cannot claim,
My Saviour's merits plead.

And when, O God! my race is run,
My Chriſtian warfare o'er,
With him triumphant may I live
And reign for evermore.

THE HOME-BRED LINNET.

THE home-bred linnet never knew
To courſe the wide campaign;
And knowing not his native right,
He knows not to complain.

Content within his narrow cage,
He ceaſes not to ſing,
But hails the beam of winter's day,
As happy as the ſpring.

Releaſe him from his bliſsful bonds,
And let him wing the ſkies,
So ſtrange is the unlook'd for change,
He's loſt where'er he flies.

Accuſtom'd not to ſeek his food
The hill and valley yields;
The hills and vales to him are bare,
And barren are the fields.

Wild and diſtracted, to the ſhade,
All throbbing, he retires,
Till worn with hunger and fatigue,
He flutters and expires.

From ſunny ſcenes, from days of joy,
To hours of dark diſtreſs,
Alas! how many ſink, among
The hapleſs human race.

Thrown headlong on a guileful world,
They, artleſs, do not know,
Sincere and ſimple in themſelves,
They fancy others ſo.

Hence do we find that men of worth,
Are oft to want betray'd;
Hence is the hopeful youth undone,
And hence the ruin'd maid.

The world's a wide and thorny wild,
Where many ſnares are laid;
And much of caution is requir'd
The devious wild to tread.

THE DUTIFUL WIFE.

A LYRIC TALE.

O Love, who giv'ſt the wilder'd ſoul
Unutter'd language from the eye,
Thy magic prompts the mutual wiſh,
Thy magic heaves the mutual ſigh.
Well-founded love an ardour gives,
That nought ungen'rous can deſtroy,
Its pride to leſſen others grief,
Its fear to wound another's joy.
For ever, then, O love be near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care!

Alexis won my youthful heart,
The virgin raptures then I knew,
Like ſunſhine o'er the ſummer's ſcene,
Has gilded many a future view;
Has ſweetened much ſucceeding toil,
Has ſoftened much ſucceeding care,
Has ſnatch'd a ſmile from trick'ling grief,
Has ſnatch'd a tranſport from deſpair.
Then, generous love, ſtill, ſtill be near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care.

Three beauteous children bleſt our love,
Who all their father's looks expreſt;
The happieſt mother ſurely I,
My huſband was of men the beſt.
He lov'd his children dear for me,
He doubly cherish'd me for them;
Except the tumults ſprung from joy,
Scarce other tumults could I name.
For love, delightful, ſtill was near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care.

The firſt rude ſhock misfortune gave,
Depriv'd us of our eldeſt boy.
The parent-pang, that then I knew,
More cruel came, oppos'd to joy.
Cloſe on my huſband's breaſt I clung,
He bath'd my neck with many a tear,

Till

Till each, to ſoothe the other's grief,
Awaken'd from the blow ſevere.
For tender love ſtill hover'd near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care.

Still plenty crown'd our frugal board,
Still ſplendid was our ſtately hall,
Till whelming tempeſts rag'd at ſea,
And 'reav'd from us, alas, our all.
Our board and ſervants ſoon reduc'd,
A narrow houſe I inſtant choſe,
And bound my love's diſtracted head,
And ſooth'd him into ſoft repoſe.
For faithful love ſtill hover'd near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care.

Where howls the wave with wizard roar,
Our other boy was heard to ſcream,
To ſave the darling's valu'd life,
His father plung'd amidſt the ſtream,
Alas! alas! the boy was loſt;
I rav'd and chaff'd his corſe in vain,
Yet, 'midſt the horror gleam'd a joy,
To claſp his father once again.
For ſacred love ſtill hover'd near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care.

My huſband liv'd; but, ah, the ſhock
A deadning palſy left behind,
While want approach'd with haggard look,
And not a former friend was kind.
The only good I could I did,
I ply'd the ſempſtreſs' needy trade;
And heav'n ſo far my labours bleſt,
That ſoon I earn'd my huſband's bread.
For duteous love ſtill hover'd near,
To ſweeten toil and ſoften care.

Bleſt be the means that ſoften care,
Bleſt be the means that ſweeten toil,
I feel the art exalt my ſex,
That prompts a ſickly huſband's ſmile.
That art which ſav'd from want, does now
Our duteous daughter's care engage,
While, truſting to a pittance ſav'd,
We fear not the approach of age;
When decent love ſhall ſtill be near,
To ſweeten toil, and ſoften care*.

* This poem, and the one preceding, are from a collection of beautiful poems, *By an Artiſt, lately publiſhed.*

SONG,

BY ROBERT BURNS.

Oh, open the door, ſome pity to ſhew,
Oh, open the door to me, Oh!
Tho' thou haſt been falſe, I'll ever prove true,
Oh, open the door to me, Oh.

Oh, cold is the blaſt upon my pale cheek,
But colder thy love for me, Oh!
The froſt that freezes the life at my breaſt,
Is nought to my pains from thee, Oh.

The wan moon is ſetting behind the white wave,
And time is ſetting with me, Oh:
Falſe friends, falſe love, farewell! for more,
I'll ne'er trouble them, nor thee, Oh.

She has open'd the door, ſhe has opened it wide,
She ſees his pale corſe on the plain, Oh:
My true love! ſhe cried, and ſunk down by
Never to riſe again, Oh! (his ſide,

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IN our laſt volume, p. 973, we end-
ed our detail of the proceedings of Parliament with a propoſition of Gen. Fitzpatrick, with reſpect to the ſtanding army. We had likewiſe introduced the aſſeſſed tax bill, and mentioned the outlines of the plan, with a table of rates, ſhowing how it affected the various claſſes of the community, p. 975. After having undergone conſiderable alterations and modifications, it came to a ſecond reading on

Dec. 14. when Mr Fox and the other Members of the oppoſition attended in their places.

Mr Pitt moved the order of the day for reading the bill a ſecond time.

Mr Sheridan ſaid, that when they were putting their hands into the pockets of their conſtituents, and giving and granting, nothing required ſo much good ſenſe.—He conceived that he had a right to review and to cenſure the meaſures of Adminiſtration; with reſpect to the enemy, ſhould they attempt an invaſion of this country, he, for one, ſhould not conſider who are the Miniſters, but where is the enemy; he did not, however, conceive that a *Bellum internecinum* was either juſt or neceſſary.—Never, he alledged, had the Miniſter been ſincere in his wiſhes for peace, neither perhaps had the French; the late negociation had been a mere conteſt of dexterity, who ſhould tell the beſt ſtory to Europe. From a conviction that it was impoſſible for the preſent Miniſters to make peace, he had on a former occaſion moved an Addreſs that they might be removed, conceiving as he did, that as his Right Hon.

Hon. Friend (Mr Fox) had aſſerted, it was impoſſible for the people to enjoy the bleſſings of peace under the preſent Adminiſtration. Between theſe, he ſaid, the people muſt ſoon make their election. It was not on account of the ambition of France that the preſent war was either commenced or continued, it was to keep nine worthleſs Miniſters in their places. He would prove, that the principles of the war had been, even by their own conduct, admitted to be wrong; the principle of the war, as they contended, was for the cauſe of order, religion, and morality; now it was for Ceylon, Trinidad, and Trincomale. If peace were ſincerely wiſhed for, he would be bound to ſay, that his Majeſty ſhould not be able to caſt his eye upon any nine men in his road from Windſor to London, who ſhould not be able to conclude peace with France within a fortnight. Mr Sheridan next alluded to the unanimity of the Common Council. The principle of the bill was, he ſaid, a fiſcal contribution, it went to eſtabliſh in every pariſh a fiſcal inquiſition, to report the profits of every individual—a moſt enormous proceeding in a free commercial country. By this Inquiſitorial Act, a tradeſman, whoſe income might fall from 290l. to 150l. muſt either diſcloſe his circumſtances, which muſt ſtill more reduce his credit, or be guilty of perjury, and defraud his creditors by paying the tax with their money.

Mr Sec. Dundas ſaid, that whatever objection had hitherto been made, not one had been offered againſt the principle.—It was agreed to be neceſſary to raiſe a large ſum of money within the year, and the only queſtion was, how that ſum was to be raiſed? Mr Dundas adverted with ſome pleaſantry upon the conduct of Oppoſition in abſenting themſelves from the Houſe, yet returning with a load of arguments againſt the conduct of thoſe gentlemen who had attended their duty, while the members of the Oppoſition had been abſent.—He concluded with declaring, that if nine gentlemen could be found who could make a permanent and honourable peace with France, and conſiſtent with the welfare and true intereſt of this country, he was confident that both himſelf and his colleagues would relinquiſh their ſituations.

Mr Fox conſidered the principles of the preſent bill, as far as regarded the lower and middling claſſes, as a confiſcation of their property, an annihilation of their trade, and in many inſtances the confinement of their perſons; and he had yielded up his own judgment, as he held it to be his duty, and had come down to that Houſe in obedience to his conſtituents, who had inſtructed him to watch the progreſs of the bill. Mr Fox ſaid, he had the ſtrongeſt poſſible objections to this bill. Were he even to admit the neceſſity of raiſing ſuch a ſupply, he muſt ſtill contend that the criterion was ill choſen. If he were aſked, whether he had any objection to the meaſure of raiſing a large part of the ſupply within the year, he muſt give a conditional anſwer, and one which refers to the preſent circumſtances of the ſeaſon. He thought that the meaſure at beſt came with an ill grace from thoſe who had inverted every proper rule in their proceedings. Why did they not adopt this mode in the outſet of the war, and why was it now reſerved for a period of diſtreſs? This meaſure had been adopted in the caſe of the Spaniſh armament—why was it not purſued on the opening of the war with France? The reaſon was, that Miniſters were of opinion that the people were to be deluded like children—to be treated with tenderneſs in the firſt inſtance—and to leave no foretaſte of bitterneſs which was to follow. The preſent tax was not on the property, but on the income of the individual. A tax on property was known to be an experiment too dangerous in its application. There were three ſpecies of income which were open to taxation—theſe were, what a man drew annually from his land, from the funds, and from his commercial purſuits.—With reſpect to landed incomes, they were certainly open to taxation. The annual income drawn from funded property was ſo guarded and fenced by a number of acts of Parliament for a century, that no Miniſter could attempt to touch it, without an open violation of the public faith; yet what the preſent Miniſter could not directly effect, he had endeavoured, by indirect means, to accompliſh.—As a tax upon commercial incomes, it would affect his conſtituents with extraordinary ſeverity, and

with a ſeverity aggravated by the diſproportion between its effects on the monied and the trading claſſes. Let it be ſuppoſed that two perſons, having each a capital of 10,000l. ſhould become the object of this tax: the one, having lent his money on mortgage, had an income of 500l. a-year; the other, employing his capital in trade, derived from it 1050l. the income of both would come to aſſeſſment under this tax, and the latter would pay double the ſum levied upon the former, not becauſe he was more wealthy, but becauſe he ſuperadded to his capital the reſources of his own induſtry. The tax, in this inſtance, which would be a very general one, muſt be a tax not upon property or incomes, but upon induſtry. A man in trade, Mr Fox ſaid, having been fortunate for a year or two, might take a ſmall houſe in the country, and keep a one-horſe chaiſe, reſolving whenever his buſineſs ſhould take another turn, to relinquiſh them; this bill would make him liable to pay in his worſt year for the expenditure of his beſt. He might ſave himſelf, it would be replied, by revealing his income; a diſcloſure which would be generally equivalent to ruin, and which it was adding mockery and inſult to injury, to propoſe. Mr Fox cenſured the ſyſtem of eſtimating property by the incomes of trade, as cruel and dreadfully impolitic in a commercial country, eſpecially when no commercial man could tell the effect which this and future taxes could have on his receipts. He was an enemy to confounding of ranks; and, in his opinion, no decree of the French Convention, however much it might exceed the preſent bill in violence, ever ſurpaſſed it in tendency to deſtroy the claſs of landed gentlemen. How long the tax might remain in force, no man could ſay; it was, at leaſt, certain, that nothing had been heard that night which could lead to a ſuppoſition that peace was near. It was extremely fallacious to ſuppoſe, that to take an equal part of ſeveral incomes was to impoſe an equal burthen. He ſaid Miniſters talked much of Jacobin principles being introduced, and perſons eſpouſing thoſe ſentiments in this country. He would be bold to ſay, the preſent meaſure would make more Jacobins than had ever yet exiſted. Miniſters could talk of unanimity; look to Ireland—Good God! what horrible ſcenes are there tranſacted! Had the ſame proceedings taken place in La Vendee would not the Chancellor of the Exchequer have ridiculed the French Rulers talking of unanimity? but Miniſters wiſhed to introduce the ſame military law here as in Ireland;—they wiſhed the ſame horrible ſcenes to be exhibited here. He conjured the Houſe to conſider what they were about, and not to ſuffer this bill to paſs.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer began his reply by ſtating, that he was aware of numerous objections to the meaſure, as it now ſtood, many of which were reaſonable, and fully deſerved the attention of the Houſe. Many alterations were expected, which ought, and no doubt would be effected in the Committee, as far as they were not inconſiſtent with the general object of the bill. The modifications which it would be neceſſary to make would, however, not defeat, though they might limit the effect of the meaſure, which might be ſo regulated as to prevent it from preſſing partially upon thoſe claſſes, on account of which the chief objections had ariſen. In the general principle of the bill, he was ſo ſtrongly confirmed, that he really believed, upon its adoption, depended the queſtion, whether we ſhould or ſhould not reſcue the country from a preſent danger, and raiſe it to a degree of ſecurity and proſperity ſcarcely hitherto exampled. Under ſuch circumſtances, he knew his duty too well not to perſiſt in a meaſure which would enable us to tranſmit to poſterity the independence and the honour of the country. The preſent was a bill for an extraordinary grant of money to the Crown, for the purpoſe of proſecuting the war; and the queſtions ariſing upon it muſt be, whether it was proper to grant any money for ſuch a purpoſe; whether that money ſhould be raiſed within the year; and whether the criterion for levying it was a good one? The Hon. gentleman denied the firſt poſition, and holding it improper to grant any money for carrying on the war, called upon Miniſters not to ſtand in the way of peace; unleſs, however, the Houſe were ſatisfied, that, inſtead of the nine worthleſs Miniſters propoſed to be diſmiſſed, the

King

King could find nine better between Windſor and London, they would be no further advanced than they were at the moment when the deſpair of the Hon. Gentlemen at their laſt failure had induced them to abandon the ſervice of the country.—Miniſters were to be ſuppoſed inſincere in their offers of peace, becauſe they had diſputed the propriety of peace with France at certain periods; but he denied that they had ever refuſed to make peace with the Republican form of Government. They had never expreſſed ſuch a ſentiment, or conceived it in thought. When he was aſked, whether no extremity of danger would induce him to make peace? he replied, that all dangers, whether in war or peace, were comparative. In anſwer to what Mr Fox had ſaid concerning Ireland, he averred, no meaſures had been purſued but what the exigencies of the caſe required. A great degree of coercion was neceſſary, as French principles had made a rapid ſpread in that country.

Mr Mainwaring cloſed the debate, with this remarkable declaration, that any attempt to augment the Aſſeſſed Taxes would force the people either to reſiſt, or to ſink beneath the preſſure.

The Houſe then divided,

Ayes	-	175
Noes	-	50
Majority for the Bill		——125

15. *Mr Tierney* prefaced his motion reſpecting the Secretary of State's Office with an expreſſion of regret, that he ſhould have to trouble the Houſe, after it had been fatigued by ſo long a debate the night before. He ſhould confine himſelf to a motion, on the ſubject of which he had given notice, namely, the ſeparation of the duties of the Secretary of State's Office, and the creation of a new Office, in a Third Secretary for the War department, though the Office of the Third Secretary had been abolished by a formal act of Parliament. What he moved was, that an humble Addreſs ſhould be preſented to his Majeſty, expreſſing the great concern of that Houſe, that his Majeſty had been induced to make a diviſion of the offices in the State department, ſo that a new office was created, though all the duties had heretofore been tranſacted by two Secretaries of State, thus unneceſſarily increaſing the expence, and indirectly adding to the influence of the Crown.—The motion for the Addreſs went further humbly to repreſent, that Mr Dundas himſelf had, in the courſe of the preſent war, diſcharged the duties of the two offices, now divided between him and the Duke of Portland, with the expence of only four extra clerks; at the ſame time that he likewiſe did the buſineſs of the Treaſurer of the Navy; that the ſalary of the two Secretaries was heretofore only 9000l. between them, or 4500l. each; whereas it was now increaſed to 6000l. for each of the three Secretaries, ſo that 18,000l. was now paid by the public, for ſervices that were before diſcharged for 9000l. from which it appeared, that there was an increaſe, when there ſhould rather have been a diminution of expence.

Mr Sec. Dundas got up to anſwer Mr Tierney. However diſagreeable it might be to him, he was under the neceſſity of ſpeaking in his own behalf. Some part of his defence, he ſaid, he ſhould leave to his Right Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was ready to allow that he had at one time filled the ſituation that was now occupied by two Secretaries of State, and that he had done the duties that were now diſcharged by himſelf and the Duke of Portland. But becauſe he had done the duties of the two offices, he denied it might be inferred that the ſeparation of them was unneceſſary. On the contrary, he would aver it to have been not only a matter of great expedience, but of extreme neceſſity. That which he now attended to, the military department, branched out into ſuch a variety of detail, that it completely occupied the time and attention of any ſingle perſon. Since the commencement of the war he had found it ſo, and he defied any man to be more induſtrious and aſſiduous in attending to his duty than he had ever been. He then proceeded to ſhew, that a great many of Mr Tierney's ſtatements were wholly unfounded, and others greatly exaggerated and diſtorted. The officers he maintained, were not more numerous than was abſolutely requiſite for the accurate and quick diſpatch of buſineſs; and no men, he was ſure, better merited their ſalaries than thoſe employed in his office; nor could the buſineſs be done with leſs aſſiſtance.

Mr Pitt roſe in confirmation of what Mr Dundas had ſaid, reſpecting his acceptance of the ſeals, as Home Secretary, while he held his official ſituation as Treaſurer of the Navy. He ſaid, that Mr Dundas accepted the appointment on ſtrong ſolicitation, and kept it through the ſame motive. The attention of one individual, however able and however aſſiduous, like his Right Hon. Friend, was certainly inſufficient to the due diſcharge of the two offices, particularly with the accumulation of buſineſs in conſequence of the war; but in an arduous ſituation his Right Hon. Friend did not chooſe haſtily to reſign it. Mr Pitt then entered into a minute examination of the ſeveral points of Mr Tierney's motion, and argued at large in contradiction of his different ſtatements, both in regard to the increaſed expenditure, and the alledged abuſes in the State Office.

The motion for the Addreſs was then negatived without a diviſion.

CLOCK AND WATCH TAX.

18. *Mr Mainwaring* preſented a petition from the inhabitants of the pariſh of St James, Clerkenwell, ſtating that the number of inhabitants in that pariſh amounted to 22,000, one third of whom had formerly been employed in the various branches of the clock and watch trade, were now out of employ; that the poor rates had in conſequence been very much increaſed, and concluding by praying relief.

Petitions of a ſimilar tendency have been preſented from other places.

ASSESSED TAXES.

The Houſe having reſolved into a Committee on the Triple Aſſeſſment Tax, Mr Hobart in the Chair,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer roſe to ſtate the heads of the modifications which he meant to propoſe. His intention was to divide the ſeveral objects of aſſeſſment into different claſſes, and to place each under a ſeparate head, and to alter ſome of the gradations of taxation from the manner in which they at preſent ſtood. With reſpect to houſes and windows in general, he ſhould propoſe, inſtead of the ſcale which he at firſt ſubmitted to their conſideration, to ſubſtitute the following rates, viz.

Under 1l. ——

From 1l. to 2l. one quarter.
From 2l. to 3l. one half.
From 3l. to 5l. three fourths.
From 5l. to 7l. 10s. one rate.
From 7l. 10s. to 10l. one and a half.
From 10l. to 12l. two rates.
From 12l. to 15l. two and a half.
From 15l. to 20l. three rates.
From 20l. to 30l. three and a half.
From 30l. to 40l. four rates.
From 40l. to 50l. four and a half.
From 50l. upwards, five rates.

He next came to two deſcriptions of houſes, which formed a great majority of the dwellings of the metropolis, and which he thought deſerved to be treated as favourably as poſſible: he meant thoſe of ſhop-keepers and lodging-houſes. His intention was, that theſe houſes ſhould pay one third leſs than houſes of any other deſcription; and that thoſe which now paid under 3l. ſhould be totally exempted from the additional duties.

22. In a Committee *Mr Pitt* ſtated, that by way of affording ſome relief to thoſe perſons who had complained of ſtagnation of trade, on account of the Clock and Watch Act, he had agreed that the preſent tax ſhould not extend to ſuch clocks and watches as ſhould be purchaſed after the 5th of January 1798.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Nov. 29. The Houſe were employed chiefly from the 10th to the 30th, in hearing and determining appeals, and receiving of various bills from the Houſe of Commons, upon which nothing of importance was ſaid.

30. The Royal Aſſent was given to the Land and Malt Duty, the Scotch Small Notes, Bank Reſtriction, and ſome other bills.

On December 19th, both Houſes attended his Majeſty to St Paul's, to return thanks to the Almighty, for the ſignal victories gained by his Majeſty's fleets. See Vol. 59. p. 925.

Dec. 20. The Houſe went into a Committee upon the bill to amend the act of laſt Seſſion, for admitting Roman Catholics to ſerve in the Scotch Militia; which having gone through, their Lordſhips adjourned till Friday.

LORD

LORD MOIRA's LETTER.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl *of* MOIRA *to* Lieutenant-Colonel M'MAHON.

Donington, June 15. 1797.

My dear Colonel,

THE information which you have given to me of the reports circulating, with regard to the late political negotiation, is in one reſpect material. It confirms a ſuſpicion which had occurred to me, that it was an object to have me thought diſpoſed towards ſuch a coalition.—And the Oracle, which I had not ſeen before you tranſmitted it, exceedingly ſtrengthens the ſuppoſition. If I have left room for thoſe erroneous ſtatements, by not proclaiming to all the world the arrangement that was in view, it did not proceed from my not having taking a preciſe and defined line; ſtill leſs did it ariſe from any notion of advantage in concealment; for the gentlemen with whom I conferred, had not any purpoſe which they wiſhed to diſguiſe; and I ſtrongly urged them not to give any appearance of intrigue to the buſineſs, by any affectation of ſecrecy. Indeed, I know that ſome of them declared their intentions, very openly, to the perſons moſt concerned, the Miniſter; which, perhaps, has facilitated the attempt of throwing a colour of colluſion on the plan. My ſole reaſon for not talking more openly, on what was in contemplation, was, that I had declined being a principal mover in the buſineſs, and that I thought it would have had an air of vanity, if I proclaimed the flattering recurrence of ſo many reſpectable characters to me. It was before Eaſter that ſome Members of the Houſe of Commons, not thoſe who uſed to meet at Sir John Sinclair's, ſent to aſk for an opportunity of converſing with me on political topics. When we met, they ſaid that a conſiderable number of the independent Members, who had hitherto voted with Adminiſtration, ſaw, with exceſſive alarm, the difficulties into which the country had been plunged, and which could not but increaſe rapidly, unleſs an adequate remedy were immediately applied. They added, that they had reflected on the nature of that remedy, and were convinced, that a change of Miniſtry muſt be the firſt ſtep towards it; in conſequence of which they had communed together, and had determined to fix their confidence upon me. They then requeſted, that I would endeavour, on the aſſurance of their ſupport, to form an Adminiſtration, on the principles of excluding perſons who had, on either ſide, made themſelves obnoxious to the public. As I ſaw the dangers of the country in the ſame light that they did, and believed that nothing could diſpel them but the calling forth the general confidence of the nation, I could not diſſent from the theory of their plan: The execution of it, however, I deemed impracticable; I ſtated to them the impoſſibility of their overpowering the adherents both of Mr Pitt and Mr Fox—on which account I ſtrenuouſly recommended, that they ſhould attempt to form, with Mr Fox's party, an alliance that might be ſatisfactory to themſelves and to the country; by diſcuſſing, and, when accepted, reducing to ſtrict engagement, the extent of meaſures which Mr Fox, when brought into office by them, would propoſe.—The gentlemen ſaid, that many of their friends had taken ſo ſtrong a part againſt Mr Fox, and others had ſuch a prejudice againſt him, that they had not any hope of bringing my propoſition to bear with them. I repeated my reaſoning as earneſtly as poſſible, and prevailed upon thoſe gentlemen to ſay they would recommend the ſuggeſtion to the conſideration of their comrades. I preſſed the council upon many of them individually afterwards; and I went out of town. Public matters growing more gloomy in their aſpect every day, I received a letter from ſome of thoſe Gentlemen, containing ſuch remonſtrances on my abſence, that I returned directly to London. The perſons with whom I had before conferred, came to me as ſoon they heard I had arrived. They told me the repugnance of their party to Mr Fox was invincible, but that a ſenſe of the extreme peril to which the ſtate was expoſed, had become ſo general, as to make it clear that a majority of the Houſe of Commons would be for a new Adminiſtration; and they produced a very long liſt indeed of Members, containing

taining men of the greateſt weight in the country, who wiſhed that I ſhould ſtand at their head. I explained to the Gentlemen, that to make myſelf the chief of a party, would no more ſuit me than it would become them to enroll themſelves under me—That tho' I muſt be flattered very highly as being thought by ſuch perſonages equal to the guidance of affairs in ſo formidable a criſis, the ſituation to which they deſtined me was moſt ineligible for me—That I would, notwithſtanding, not ſhrink from it, if my acceptance of it would be regarded by his Majeſty as an act of duty, and by the public as an act of zeal—That to inſure ſuch a conſtruction, I muſt not enter into any management or intrigue; but that the buſineſs muſt be done by their open and manly declaration of what they thought neceſſary for the public intereſt in ſuch an exigency. I ſuſpect that Mr Fox obtained information of the ſentiments of theſe Gentlemen, and thence, with that elevated diſintereſtedneſs, and honeſt anxiety for the national welfare, which guides all his actions, determined, by the ſacrifice of his own pretenſions, to remove every obſtacle from an arrangement which he thought might be productive of good to the country. This ſtep did indeed appear to forward the views of the independent Members; for it ſeemed to call upon Miniſter to ſhew an equal degree of public ſpirit, and to retire from ſtations which they could no longer fill with benefit to the empire. It was underſtood that they felt it ſo: And on that ſuppoſition the independent Members made a more pointed application to me. Hitherto nobody had been deſignated for any particular office but Sir W. Pulteney. The Gentlemen had ſaid that he was the perſon whom they ſhould be moſt gratified in ſeeing Chancellor of the Exchequer. —And I had profeſſed to them and to him, that there was not any perſon with whom I could act more confidently. From what I have mentioned, however, you will ſee, that it was not in the contemplation of my friends to have an Adminiſtration formed by a junction with the majority of the preſent Cabinet. One perſon, indeed, had obſerved to me, that if Mr Pitt and Lord Grenville were diſplaced, the remainder of the Cabinet would ſuit my purpoſes as well as any men I could find; but I directly met that ſuggeſtion, by a declaration, that nothing could induce me to go into office upon terms of that nature. The introduction of Lord Thurlow, Sir William Pulteney, and myſelf, into that Cabinet, could not aſſure the public of a change of ſyſtem: And it was neceſſary, in the very outſet, the confidence of the public ſhould attach itſelf to our principles; I would therefore have nothing equivocal.—Without meaning to proſcribe individuals, there are certain points with which one muſt not palter. "I can never ſit in a Cabinet with the Duke of Portland. He appears to me to have done more injury to the Conſtitution, and to the elimination of the higher ranks in this country, than any man on the political ſtage. By his union with Mr Pitt, he has given it to be underſtood by the people, that either all the conſtitutional changes which he and his friends, for ſo many years urged againſt Mr Pitt, were groundleſs; or that, being ſolid, there was no difficulty in waving them, when a convenient partition of power and emoluments was propoſed." In either caſe, the people muſt infer, that the conſtitutional principle which can be ſo played with, is unimportant; and that Parliamentary profeſſions are no ſecurity. Were I to connect myſelf with the Duke of Portland, I muſt incur the imputation of ſimilar laxity: and I muſt thereby forfeit any claim to a confidence, without which I could not be of any uſe; when nothing but the hope of being of uſe could make me for a moment liſten to a propoſal for undertaking office. "My wiſh was to procure for colleagues many of thoſe who had been acting in concert with Mr Fox." And it was obvious, that the ſtep which he had taken was generouſly intended to leave them at liberty to join, as unconnected individuals, in a new Adminiſtration. To this my friends, of whom not one aimed at office, entirely concurred, ſaying, that if I continued reſponſible to them for meaſures, I might take what men I choſe. Thoſe meaſures had been readily adjuſted between us; for when I detailed to thoſe gentlemen the plan on which alone I would undertake the management of affairs, we found that our ſentiments agreed completely. I had ſtat-

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ed that I muſt decline coming in unleſs his Majeſty ſhould graciouſly conſent to theſe three conditions:—"An endeavour to procure immediate peace—the tranquillization of Ireland by a juſt and lenient ſyſtem of Government—and a full diſcloſure to the nation as to the extent of our financial difficulties," in order to juſtify the call for thoſe heavy contributions that would be requiſite to re-eſtabliſh public credit. Of my friends, I demanded this condition: "That no removals ſhould be made in the houſehold, poſt-office, mint, or any other department not immediately connected with Miniſterial functions." To this they moſt readily aſſented. My view was, to profeſs that I would not form to myſelf a party; and that as I had merely, from the critical ſituation of public affairs, conſented to undertake a buſineſs foreign to the line of life which I had propoſed to myſelf, I ſhould conſider it a fortunate releaſe whenſoever his Majeſty or Parliament ſhould think ſome other perſon fitter for the ſtation. With the meaſures by which the change of Adminiſtration was to be brought about, I was to have no concern. The ſentiment of the independent Members was indeed ſubmitted through me, as ſome channel was neceſſary for the tranſmiſſion of their joint opinions. But in this I took no further part. In purſuance of my ſyſtem, I declined remaining in London; leaſt, from conſtant communications, the matter ſhould degenerate into political intrigue. I have given you this long detail, that you may be empowered to contradict any miſ-ſtatement that you hear: And you are perfectly welcome to ſhow this letter to any reſpectable man of any party; as there was not a point throughout the buſineſs which I, or any of thoſe with whom I conferred, need with to conceal. Not a ſingle man of thoſe who aſſured me of their ſupport ever hinted at a private object, much leſs ſuggeſted any thing like a condition. You ſay that Mr Sheridan has been traduced as willing to abandon Mr Fox, and to promote a new Adminiſtration. I had accidentally a converſation with that Gentleman at the Houſe of Lords. I remonſtrated ſtrongly with him againſt a principle which I heard Mr Fox's friends intended to lay down; namely, that they would ſupport a new Adminiſtration, but that not any of them would take part in it. I ſolemnly declare upon my honour, that I could not ſhake Mr Sheridan's aſſertion of the propriety of that determination. He ſaid, that he and Mr Fox's other friends, as well as Mr Fox himſelf, would give the moſt energetic ſupport to ſuch an Adminiſtration as was in contemplation; but that their acceptance of office would appear an acquieſcence under the injuſtice of the interdict ſuppoſed to be fixed upon Mr Fox. I did not, and never can, admit the fairneſs of that argument. But I gained nothing upon Mr Sheridan: to whoſe uprightneſs in that reſpect I can therefore bear the moſt deciſive teſtimony. Indeed, I am aſhamed of offering teſtimony where ſuſpicion ought not to be conceived. I conſider the whole of this political negotiation as completely extinct; and feeling my eſcape from a hazardous and unpleaſant ſituation, I enjoy the conſciouſneſs of not having ſhrunk, in an unmanly manner, from any reſponſibility in a caſe where it was thought I might be uſeful to the community.—Adieu, my dear Sir. Believe me faithfully yours,

Colonel M'Mahon. MOIRA.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Hon. Charles James Fox to Colonel M'Mahon.

SIR, I was ſorry that my being from home prevented me from having the pleaſure of ſeeing you yeſterday, when you did me the honour to call.

I return you Lord Moira's letter, with many thanks for the communication; his conduct appears to have been what I never doubted but it would be, honourable and judicious. I had as little doubt of his good wiſhes to, and favourable opinion of me. I have long had a great eſteem for him, and I know that ſentiments of this nature are, tho' not quite ſo certainly as thoſe of a different kind, uſually reciprocal.

I am, &c. C. J. FOX.

Lieut. Colonel M'Mahon.

MONTHLY REGISTER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The menaces of the French Republic to invade Great Britain or Ireland, have not ceased. Their real object seems yet problematical. Some are of opinion, that it is meant merely to overawe and divert the people, and thereby the better to manage the army, to whom the Directory are much in arrears; no less than 40 millions Sterling promised to them. Others think that their object is the ruin of the British funds; while a third party contend, that the ostensible object of the preparations in question is the real one; as in the case of the intended invasion of Ireland last year. It certainly is a principal object with the Directory to prolong their own power; to do this, a popular pretext for keeping on foot so prodigious an army has certainly its weight; for the spirit of adventure and plunder once excited, will not be readily laid aside. Though their navy is greatly reduced, their invention and energetic ardor, it is said, has projected rafts to supply it, upon which they intend to transport their troops, artillery, &c. The dangers and difficulties attending this, in the opinion of professional men, seem unsurmountable; and, even were they to effect a landing, the spirit of the country, and the natural formation of the ground, leave no room for ultimate disappointment.

To deprive us of the means of strength, the French Government has had recourse to a violent and decisive measure. All the English goods in France were upon one day seized and confiscated throughout the Republic, on a law which had not been observed. In a message to the Councils, the Directory call for a law more effectually to prevent the introduction of English goods into France in any manner. They even propose to shut their ports against every neutral vessel that has touched at an English port in the course of her voyage; to condemn as prize every ship that has the least part of her cargo consisting of English goods; and they actually declare war against all the maritime powers that shall dare to be the carriers of our produce and manufactures. The French Papers state, that the English goods already seized, in Paris only, are in value upwards of three millions. The following articles are subject to this arbitrary decree:

1. All kinds of cotton velvet; all kinds of woolen stuffs and cloths, cotton, silk, or mixtures of these; all kinds of quilted serges, nankeenetts and muslins, wrought woolens, cottons, haircloth, and tapestry, known as the manufacture of England.

2. All kinds of woolen or cotton caps, single or mixed.

3. Buttons of every kind.

4. All kinds of plated work, hardware, cutlery, watches, tin-work, and other manufactures of steel, iron, or other metals, polished or rough, pure or mixed.

5. Tanned, curried, or dressed leather, wrought or unwrought; carriages, mounted or not mounted; harness and all other kinds of saddlery.

6. Ribbands, hats, gauzes, and shawls known by the name of English.

7. All kinds of skins for gloves, breeches, or under-waistcoats, and their articles manufactured.

8. All kinds of glass and crystal, except those for the purpose of watches and spectacles.

9. Sugar refined in loaves or powder.

10. All kinds of crockery or earthen ware, of the manufacture of England.

SPAIN.

The Spaniards appear still to be completely overawed by the French, what effect the violent measures of seizing all vessels with English property may have to arouse them, time must determine.

PORTUGAL.

The Portuguese seem to have held out as long as they possibly could; and they have purchased peace from the French at a very dear rate; our ships seem still to keep possession of the port of Lisbon.

ITALY.

It was long suspected that Buonaparte had it in view to set up for himself, and to establish his own power in Italy. These suspicions are now done away, and the Cisalpine and Ligurian republics appear now to be fully organized.

Paris papers state officially that there

has been an inſurrection at Rome, from which city the French Envoy (Joſeph Buonaparte) has fled, ſeveral French having been previouſly maſſacred. Upon this ſubject there is a very long letter from the Envoy, written at Florence, to the Miniſter for foreign affairs at Paris:

"On the 26th of December (the Envoy ſays) three individuals called upon him at Rome, to tell him, that on the following night a revolution would take place; an intimation which he received with ſome ſigns of diſapprobation; though they enquired whether the French Government would protect them. At four o'clock of the morning of the 27th, he was informed, that there was a revolutionary aſſembly at the villa Medicis, compoſed of eighty or a hundred perſons. He learned, afterwards, that a patrole had been attacked by ſixty men, who were diſperſed, after two of the Papal dragoons had been killed. In the mean time, ſeveral perſons had taken the tri coloured cockade; and the French Envoy propoſed to have theſe arreſted, if their names ſhould not be found on his liſt.

"While his ſecretaries were examining this liſt, twenty of the inſurgents, with French cockades in their hats, deſired to ſee him, ſhouting "*Live the Republic—Live the Roman People.*" At his command, they retired in diſcontent, and he was ſoon afterwards informed, that the ſtreet was filled with a crowd, amongſt whom the ſpies of the Government ſhouted *Vive la Republique* louder than others. The Papal ſoldiers fired upon this crowd within the precincts of his palace: on which he deſired the ſoldiers to retire, and prepared to reſiſt them. A tedious ſkirmiſh enſued, in which the French General Duphot, who was to have commanded the grenadiers of the *Army of England*, and two or three others were killed. The miniſters of Spain and Florence then arrived, as well as forty Papal troops, and the tumult began to ſubſide; but no perſon authorized by the Papal Government came to concert on the means of entirely delivering them from the revolters. At nine in the evening he ſet out from Rome for Florence. He promiſes to ſend the Miniſter for Foreign affairs further details relative to the Government of Rome, and (he ſays) to ſhew what puniſhment ought to be inflicted upon it."

Upon the receipt of this letter, the Directory immediately arreſted the Papal Miniſter of Rome at Paris, and ſent orders to General Berthier in Italy, to march his columns to the ancient Capitol of the world;—and as a French paper remarks, "the bell of modern Rome has probably tolled its laſt hour." Notwithſtanding the extortion it has already experienced, the venerable city ſtill holds out too rich and tempting a prey for the Directors not to ſeize this favourable opportunity (moſt likely occaſioned by their own arts) to gratify their inſatiable rapacity.

GERMANY.

Mentz, Dec. 9. This day, official intelligence arrived, that the Elector had yeſterday reſolved to give up the city to the French, but under the condition that he would leave it to the honour and juſtice of the French to accept the capitulation offered by the Electoral Adminiſtration and the Commandant. A perſon belonging to the government has been deputed to attend the French General Hatry, to know when the capitulation ſhall be executed. The laſt Auſtrian troops will leave the city on the 29th.

Franckfort, Dec. 26. Yeſterday the capitulation for the ſurrender of Mentz was ſigned at Wiſbaden between the French Gen. Hatry and the electoral commiſſion. This commiſſion conſiſted of Gen. Rudt, privy councillor Duel, councillor Kayſerberg, M. Meers, and M. Faber.

PRUSSIA.

The preſent King of Pruſſia has written the following letter to the Executive Directory:

"*Mighty and dear Friends,*

"Providence having diſpoſed of the days of the King my father, deceaſed, on the 16th of this month, and having called me to the throne of my anceſtors, I haſten to announce to you theſe two events, perſuaded that you will take a part in the loſs I have ſuſtained, and that you will feel yourſelves intereſted in my acceſſion to the regency of the Pruſſian ſtates. I ſhall take the greateſt care to cultivate and cement the harmony which I find happily eſtabliſhed between the two nations; and for that purpoſe I pray God, high and

dear friends, to have you in his holy keeping. Your good Friend,

FREDERICK WILLIAM.

HOLLAND.

Hague, Dec. 23. Forty three Batavian Repreſentatives have publiſhed a manifeſto, ſigned by them, wherein they declare that they will not accept any plan of a Conſtitution, which is not founded on a *true Democracy*, on the moſt perfect *civil equality*, on a *regular* influence of the people on the Government, and on a clearly determined *reſponſibility*, of both the members of the Executive Power. This manifeſto was preſented to the Convention on the 21ſt inſtant, ſupported by ten addreſſes ſigned by the Citizens of Amſterdam, and being read, the Aſſembly preſented one of the moſt ſtormy ſcenes ever witneſſed. It was in vain that the preſident put on his hat, and called the enraged parties to order. They ſcarce refrained from blows, and a conſiderable time elapſed before tranquillity could be reſtored.

Admiral de Winter in his addreſs to the States expreſſes himſelf as follows: "However mortifying my defeat, to the feelings of a man who loves his country, the ſatisfactory treatment I met with on the part of the enemy, the Engliſh, and by the humane and faithful ſupport and aſſiſtance they evinced towards my worthy countrymen and fellow ſufferers, whoſe blood flowed by torrents in their country's cauſe, have conſiderably ſoftened the horror of my ſituation—nay, worthy Burghers! I muſt not conceal from you, that the noble liberality of the Engliſh nation, ſince this bloody conteſt, juſtly entitles them to your admiration."

LONDON.

The preſent effective military force of Great Britain conſiſts of 16,166 regular cavalry, 13,602 ſencible cavalry, 15,129 yeomanry cavalry, 15,664 regular infantry, 11,892 ſencible infantry, 45,600 militia, 51,385 volunteers, 60,000 ſupplementary militia; making in the whole 217,440 effective men, beſide 117 companies of artillery, 12 companies of invalid artillery and 59 independent companies of invalids.

The military force in Ireland is alſo very formidable; the moſt accurate accounts ſtate it at no leſs than 120,000 effective men. The militia and yeomanry compriſe 90,000 men. The following are the Britiſh regiments of the line now in that country:

4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th regiments of dragoons guards—5th, 9th, 22d, 23d, and 24th regiments of light dragoons—6th, 13th, 30th, 51ſt, 54th, 64th, 68th, and 89th regiments of foot.

12. Captain Drew of the Cerberus frigate, and Captain Pulling late of the Penguin ſloop, were unfortunately drowned in endeavouring to get into the harbour of the Hamoaze in an open boat. After the boat overſet Capt. Drew was obſerved for ſome time combating the waves, and endeavouring to reach the ſhore; but his ſtrength being exhauſted, he ſunk in their ſight: his coat has been ſince picked up, and the letters for the port admiral found in the pocket of it. Captain Pulling had been lately promoted to the rank of Poſt Captain, and took his paſſage from Cork in the Cerberus, to join his Majeſty's ſhip Hindoſtan, of 54 guns, now fitting in this harbour for a ſtore-ſhip, to the command of which he was juſt appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty. A ſhort time ſince, he married a daughter of Admiral Kingſmill, whom, among many other dear relatives, he has left to deplore this dreadful cataſtrophe. Captain Drew was unmarried, but has many very near relations at Saltaſh, about four miles from the ſpot where the accident happened, to lament his unhappy fate.

Major Torrance, of the Eaſt Middleſex militia, was tried at Newcaſtle upon Tyne, on the 28th November 1797, by a general Court Martial, of which Col. Clitheroe, of the Weſtminſter regiment of militia, was preſident, upon five ſeveral charges, preferred againſt him by Walter Saunders, Eſq; a Captain and paymaſter of the ſaid regiment, the ſubſtance of which was as follows:—1ſt, Embezzling and miſapplying his Majeſty's proviſions. 2dly, Cauſing bread to be procured for himſelf and family, at ſundry times, at the ſame price allowed to non-commiſſioned officers and privates, which, for the moſt part, did not exceed the price of one penny per loaf, and ordered the remainder of the price to be charged to government, as if the bread ſo procured had been conſumed by the non-commiſſioned officers and privates of his

his company. *3dly*, Ordering the effective ſtrength of his company to be returned to the paymaſter, for the allowance of bread and meat at ſundry times, and withholding the ſame allowance of bread from ſundry men of his company, and applying the whole, or a part of the allowance to withheld, to his own private uſe. *4thly*, Selling within the period firſt mentioned (without having a proper order for that purpoſe,) his Majeſty's tents and blankets, committed to his care. *5thly*, Entering into an agreement of partnerſhip with John Richardſon, paymaſter ſergeant of his company, to divide the profits ariſing from the ſale of neceſſaries furniſhed to his company, equally between them, from which greater prices were charged for neceſſaries to furniſhed than ought to be charged, contrary to his Majeſty's orders, and to the great injury of the non-commiſſioned officers and privates of his company.—The Court found him guilty on the whole of the charges, except the fourth, and were of opinion, that he had behaved in a ſcandalous and infamous manner, unbecoming the character of an officer or a gentleman. They therefore adjudged him to be diſmiſſed his Majeſty's ſervice—the articles of war admitting of no alternative. His Majeſty approved of the above ſentence, and at the ſame time "expreſſed much diſapprobation of the conduct of Capt. Saunders, the proſecutor, who had ſo long ſuffered the charges to remain dormant, and had at that diſtance of time produced them, portrayed in the ſtrongeſt colours; a circumſtance that naturally begot a preſumption, of his having been actuated by ſome other motive than the good of the public ſervice."

On the 16th of January the Parliament of Ireland was opened by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.—The addreſs of both Houſes, after ſome debate, paſſed without a diviſion.

His Majeſty's ſhip Tribune, of 44 guns, was unfortunately loſt near Halifax harbour, North America, and upwards of 240 officers and ſeamen periſhed.

Count Rumford has made a donation to the Royal Society of one thouſand pounds in the 3 per cents for the purpoſe of inſtituting a Biennial Prize Medal. The collected intereſt for two years to be laid on two medals, one of gold, and the other of ſilver, as a premium to the author of the moſt important diſcovery made, during the two preceding years, on *heat*, or on *light*. The Preſident and Council of the Royal Society to decide on the merits of the candidates.

14. A duel was fought in Hyde Park, between the Earl of Lonſdale, and Sir Frederick Vane, Bart. in which the latter was wounded. This is the ſecond time that they have met on the ſame quarrel. Our readers will recollect that they fought about eighteen months age.

The arrangements are now completly made at the Bank, and books are opened, for receiving ſums on account of Voluntary Contributions, or in payment of Aſſeſſed Taxes impoſed by the late act of Parliament, or on both accounts jointly.

A letter was received at the Bank from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, ſtating—that he had it in command from his Majeſty, to deſire that the ſum of Twenty Thouſand Pounds ſhould be inſerted in the books opened for Voluntary Contributions, as his Majeſty's ſubſcription, out of his privy purſe.

The ſubſcription has gone on with more ſpirit than at the firſt opening it promiſed, the ſum on 31ſt January was ſaid to be 90,000 Sterling.

When Mr Wickham, the Engliſh envoy, left Switzerland, he delivered a note to the Helvetic Body, in which are the following paragraphs:

"Although your Lordſhips have not communicated to me the demand which the Executive Directory of France lately made to you concerning my miſſion, I could not, however, be ignorant of what was notorious to all Switzerland, and I, in conſequence, deemed it my duty to communicate it to my court, not omitting, at the ſame time, to point out the inſulting manner in which it was tranſmitted to your Lordſhips.

"In the whole of this tranſaction, which attacks alike the Law of Nations, and your ancient dignity and independence, the King has not failed to obſerve the perfidious intention of diſſolving the ties of friendſhip which have at all times attached his Majeſty to your States, and the premeditated plan

of undermining the very foundation of your Confederacy.

"The King has in conſequence ſignified his commands, that his whole miſſion ſhould withdraw from your territories without loſs of time. In communicating this reſolution to your Lordſhips, I have the King's expreſs commands to aſſure you, that it is dictated by no other motive than his anxious ſolicitude for the preſervation of your tranquillity; and that your Lordſhips may fully rely on a continuance of that good-will and friendſhip which have ever formed the baſis of his Majeſty's conduct in all his tranſactions with your States."

It appears from the French papers, that the moſt baſe and unfounded reports have been made in the Council and elſewhere, regarding the conduct of our government towards the French priſoners. The Directory has at length, however, thought fit to enter into a treaty with a commercial houſe in London, for the purpoſe of ſupplying the neceſſary ſums for the maintainance of the priſoners; and four French Commiſſioners are at this moment in England, entruſted with the diſburſement and application of the money. But as the daring falſehoods of the Executive Directory may make an impreſſion on uninformed minds, we truſt that an official account of the treatment which the French priſoners have experienced in this country will be publiſhed.

Second Mutiny at the Cape of Good Hope.

As ſoon as the firſt mutiny was got rid of, Capt. Stephens, who had been accuſed by the rioters of cruelty, demanded a court martial. Some of the witneſſes were drunk, others were guilty of prevarication on the trial; two were impriſoned by the court. Symptoms of mutiny on board the Sceptre firſt, and afterwards in ſome other ſhips, were diſcovered, and it was generally underſtood that a reſcue was to be attempted. A council was held on ſhore, and it was wiſely determined to uſe force to bring the ringleaders to ſubjection. The ſhips lay within reach of the batteries of the town, which were ordered to be manned, the furnaces to be heated for red-hot ſhot, and a proclamation was ſent to the ſhips, that if they did not come to obedience, and deliver up their delegates within two hours, they ſhould be ſunk. —This had the deſired effect; the crews returned to their duty; the ringleaders were given up; and two of them had been ſhot previous to Capt. Stephens' leaving the Cape on the 2d of December, when every thing was quiet, and all apprehenſions of further mutiny had ceaſed.—Capt. Stephens was honourably acquitted.

Captures.

La Nereide, French frigate, of 36 guns and 330 men, by the Phœbe frigate, Captain Barlow, after a chaſe and action of two hours. The French had 20 killed, and 55 wounded; the Britiſh 2 killed, and 10 wounded.

Two French privateers by the Latona, one of them of 14 guns and 62 men; the other of 18 guns and 83 men.

A French privateer, of 10 guns and 38 men, by the Niger.

A French privateer, of 14 guns and 74 men, by the Termagant.

A French lugger, of 4 guns and 47 men, by the hired cutter Stag.

Le Policrate, of 16 guns and 72 men, by the Racoon.

La Cherie, French frigate, of 26 guns and 230 men, by the Pomone. The French ſhip afterwards foundered, 220 of her crew were ſaved.

A French privateer of 14 guns, by the Phaeton.

Le Vengeur, of 12 guns and 72 men, and the L'Inconcevable, of 8 guns and 55 men, by the Indefatigable.

La Daphne (formerly his Majeſty's ſhip Daphne) of 30 guns and 276 men, by the Anſon.

EDINBURGH.

Jan. 1. The late rains have done conſiderable damage in many places. By the overflowing of the river Tay, the goods in different warehouſes, in Perth, have been much damaged, and cattle, wood, and hay carried off, in different places, by the violence of the flood.

Monday being new year's day, the Royal Edinburgh Volunteers, Firſt Regiment, cavalry, artillery, and infantry, aſſembled in St Andrew's Church, where an excellent Sermon was preached by the Rev. Principal Baird, from Deut. xxiii. 9. "When the hoſt goeth forth againſt thine enemies, then keep thee from every wicked thing."

thing." A very liberal contribution was made, which the reſpectable corps of Volunteers will diſtribute, as uſual, to the Induſtrious Poor, Deſtitute Sick, &c. The magiſtrates were preſent in their robes, and the church was crowded in every part.

The valuable collection of foſſils, belonging to the late Dr Hutton, having been given by Miſs Hutton, after her brother's death, to his friend Dr Black, has been preſented by him to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. It is to be diſtinguiſhed by the name of the *Huttonian Collection*, and to be kept for the particular purpoſe of illuſtrating Dr Hutton's Theory of the Earth.

4. Laſt night a fire broke out in the manſion-houſe at Smeaton, near Dalkeith, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Buccleugh, by which great part of the valuable paintings and furniture it contained were deſtroyed. It was not the reſidence of any part of the noble family to whom it belongs. We are happy to announce, however, that no lives have been loſt, and that ſome part of the furniture, and a great part of the valuable paintings have been ſaved. Amongſt thoſe burnt, the lovers of the fine arts will regret to hear, that the maſterly painting of Æneas bearing his father Anchiſes on his back from the burning of Troy, ranks as one; and that a favourite collection of birds have not eſcaped the general wreck.

6. On Friday night, a chaiſe-driver, who had returned from the country with a poſt-chaiſe, took the carriage and horſes down a lane in Glaſgow, in order to water the horſes in the river Clyde. The river being greatly ſwelled, the horſes were ſoon beyond their depth. With much difficulty the driver got out one of the horſes, by cutting the harneſs, but having unfortunately dropt his knife, it was impoſſible to ſave the other. The horſe was drowned, but the carriage received very little injury.

An alarming fire broke out in the Town Mills at Stirling, which did conſiderable damage.

A number of notes, in imitation of bank notes, purporting to be guinea notes of "The Company of the Bank of Aberdeen," a company which has no exiſtence, are at preſent in circulation.

A few days ago, as a chaiſe was croſſing the river of Findhorn on its return to Nairn, it was carried down by the violence of the current, and overſet. Fortunately the poſtboy and horſes were ſaved, but the chaiſe was broke in pieces.

9. At a Meeting of the Highland Society of Scotland, held this day, the following, amongſt other buſineſs came before them: Henry Mackenzie, Eſq; reported from the Committee appointed at laſt General Meeting "to take meaſures for elucidating and aſcertaining the hiſtory and authenticity of the Poems of Oſſian," the progreſs made, and information already obtained, towards eſtabliſhing the authenticity of theſe celebrated poems, which reflect ſo much honour on the genius of the Highlanders, and prove the energy of their antient language, as well as manners. The Society voted their thanks to ſeveral gentlemen, for the very ſatisfactory and important communications on the ſubject of the Society's enquiry concerning the Poems of Oſſian; and alſo to the Sub-Committee, and Mr Mackenzie their Chairman, for the great attention paid to his buſineſs. And the Meeting reſolved, "to inſtruct their Committee of Directors to continue the Sub-Committee for the inveſtigation into the authenticity and hiſtory of theſe Poems; and in general to take every meaſure which to them ſhall appear moſt proper and effectual for the accompliſhment of that object." The Meeting alſo recommended to the Committee, who had propoſed the bill "for the improvement of lands ſubject to the ſervitude of thirlage," a printed abſtract of which was on the table, to confer with the Lord Advocate, and other members of this Society who are in Parliament, and to requeſt their attention to bring the bill before the Legiſlature how ſoon the preſſure of public buſineſs will admit.

13. Yeſterday morning, about three o'clock, a fire broke out in a hat manufactory in the Cannongate, which conſiderably damaged the premiſes. Fortunately there were no other buildings adjoining.

We are glad to ſee that the Muſical Society have reſolved to keep up to old and reſpectable an entertainment. For many years St Cecilia's Hall was conſidered as the moſt elegant amuſement in this metropolis.

Leith harbour was never more crowd-

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ed with shipping than at present, being full to the very mouth, and many vessels waiting for a birth. This is in some degree owing to the winter's beginning to open, that the navigation of the North Sea has been hitherto uninterrupted.

The wife of William Ferguson, weaver in Crofcandsway, was found dead in her own house, with nobody beside her but her husband. Some suspicions having arisen that she had been murdered, the body was inspected by medical gentlemen, upon whose report a precognition was taken; since which Ferguson, after being examined by the Sheriff, has been committed to prison.

We are happy to announce the liberal collection of £38, made at the Tron church, for the benefit of the Philanthropic Society. The chief object of this society is to reclaim and restore to society, those females, who have been sentenced to confinement in Bridewell, and who appear to have repented of their profligacy, and formed proper resolutions of amendment.

29. This day Robert Williamson, shoemaker in Muirbinch, David Matheson, wright in Coalton of Balgonie, John Drummond, tailor in Dalginch, Selah Hanah Lekoth Greig, residing at Brunton, and Ann Williamson, residing in Kennoway, were tried before the Sheriff of Fife, for riotously retiring the execution of the militia act. The jury, after deliberating three hours, found Robert Williamson, David Matheson, James Arthur, John Drummond, and Ann Williamson, guilty of the crimes libelled, and Selah Greig art and part, but that she was not active in the riot. Robert Williamson, David Matheson, James Arthur, and John Drummond, were sentenced to be imprisoned for one year; Ann Williamson for two months; and Selah Greig for one month.

Same day the following melancholy accident happened at Lord Somerville's lime work at Denny. Between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, one of the quarriers went into the apartment where they were in use to take their victuals, and where a fire was constantly kept in order to light his pipe; another of the workmen soon followed; a third, supposed to be an hour after the first, kept in for the purpose of giving assistance, but dropt down, and they all three unfortunately expired. They have all left widows with several children.

MILITIA ACT.

There is an alteration made in the more material provisions of the Scotch Militia Act of last session of Parliament. By the former act, his Majesty's Lieutenants for the different counties, &c. were enjoined to hold their first meetings for carrying the act into execution on the 1st of August last; but, as in many cases these meetings were not held on the day appointed, another act became necessary, to give further time for the execution of the act. The Lieutenants, &c. are now empowered to hold their first meetings on the 12th of February, or on any day betwixt that and the 1st of March next. In the mean time, his Majesty is empowered, by the new act, to apportion the number of men to be raised over those counties, &c. which have already returned lists, provided the number so apportioned shall not exceed 5500; and if the number so apportioned, with those to be apportioned over the counties, &c. which have not yet returned lists, shall be short of the whole number of men to be raised by the act, the deficiency is to be supplied by an additional apportionment on the counties, the quotas of which had been thus previously fixed.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICIARY.

Jan. 16. This day came on the trial of George Mealmaker, accused of sedition, &c. The articles in the libel charged against the panel are as follows:—That the said George Mealmaker is guilty *actor*, or art and part of all and each, or one or other of the aforesaid crimes; in so far as, some time during the course of the year 1797, a number of seditious and evil disposed persons did, in various parts of Scotland, and particularly in the counties of Fife, Forfar, and Perth, form themselves into an association, denominated "*The Society of United Scotsmen*," the object and purpose of which was, under the pretext of reform, and the obtaining of annual parliaments, and universal suffrage, to create in the minds of the people a spirit of disaffection and disloyalty to the King and the established Government, and ultimately to excite and stir them up to acts of violence and opposition to the laws and constitution of this country; and which unlawful

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lawful and ſeditious aſſociation, the more effectually to gain its object, was regularly and ſyſtematically formed upon rules and regulations moſt artfully adapted to the wicked and ſeditious purpoſes it had in view; ſuch as the formation of ſmall clubs or ſocieties in various parts of the country, with officers belonging to them choſen by ballot, as *Preſident*, *Secretary*, and *Treaſurer*; the ſubdiviſion of theſe clubs or ſocieties, when the numbers of the individuals compoſing them amounted to fifteen, into other clubs under ſimilar regulations; the formation of committees, called *Parochial*, *County*, *Provincial*, and *National*; the nomination of *delegates* from each ſociety and committee to attend the higher committees; the election, by (what is called) the *National Committee*, of a *Secret Committee*, conſiſting of ſeven members; the contributing of ſmall ſums to pay the expence of *delegates*; the eſtabliſhing of *ſigns* and *counter ſigns*, and of *private words*, the better to conceal as well as to promote the aſſociation; and laſtly, the adminiſtering of oaths to thoſe who are admitted members, binding them to perſevere in promoting the objects of the aſſociation, in defending to their utmoſt thoſe who may be proſecuted for their concern in ſuch illegal meaſures; and above all, binding them to declare in the moſt ſolemn manner, by what is called a *teſt of ſecrecy*, "That neither hopes, fears, rewards, or puniſhments, ſhould ever induce them, directly or indirectly, to inform on, or give any evidence againſt, any member or members of this or ſimilar ſocieties, for any act or expreſſion of theirs done or made, collectively or individually, in or out of this ſociety, in purſuance of the ſpirit of this obligation." Of which dangerous and ſeditious aſſociation, formed upon the principles above deſcribed, the ſaid George Mealmaker is a leading member; and did, ſome time in the years 1796 or 1797, adminiſter to others, and did himſelf take the different oaths or obligations, the import and tendency of which have been above libelled; and did, in the courſe of the months of of May, June, July, Auguſt, September, or October laſt, at Dundee, county of Forfar; at Cupar-Angus, pariſh of Cupar of Angus, and county of Forfar, or Perth; and at Cupar, pariſh of Cupar, and county of Fife, and other places to the Public Proſecutor unknown, wickedly and feloniouſly endeavour, to the utmoſt of his power, to promote and advance the objects and purpoſes of the aforeſaid wicked and ſeditious aſſociation. More particularly, the ſaid George Mealmaker did, ſome time in the months of Auguſt, September, or October laſt, at Dundee aforeſaid, attend the meeting of delegates belonging to the ſaid ſeditious aſſociation, who had aſſembled from different places, ſuch as Brechin, Kerrymuir, Cupar of Angus, and Dundee (the ſaid George Mealmaker being named delegate for Dundee aforeſaid); and did, at the meeting aforeſaid, take the chief lead in endeavouring to promote the objects of the aſſociation: and did, among other things, propoſe that a delegate to the *National Committee* ſhould be named; and who was named accordingly. Further, the ſaid George Mealmaker, above complained on, did, in the courſe of the years 1796 or 1797, at Dundee aforeſaid, and at other places to the proſecutor unknown, wickedly and feloniouſly diſtribute and circulate, or cauſe to be diſtributed or circulated, various ſeditious and inflammatory papers or pamphlets, the general tendency of which was to excite a ſpirit of diſloyalty to the King, and of diſaffection to the exiſting laws and conſtitution of Great Britain; in particular, a paper or pamphlet of the above deſcription and tendency, entituled, "The Moral and Political Catechiſm of Man, or a Dialogue between a Citizen of the World and an Inhabitant of Great Britain:" (which was compoſed and written, or cauſed to be compoſed, written, and printed by the ſaid George Mealmaker); as alſo a paper or publication, entituled, "*Reſolutions and Conſtitution of the Society of United Scotſmen.*" More particularly, The ſaid George Mealmaker did, ſome time in the courſe of the months of May, June, July, Auguſt, September, or October laſt, at Dundee aforeſaid, or at Cupar of Angus aforeſaid, wickedly and feloniouſly diſtribute and ſend, or cauſe to be diſtributed and ſent, to Rober Bain weaver in Cupar of Angus, two dozen copies or thereby of the aforeſaid ſeditious and inflammatory publication, entituled, "The Moral and Political Catechiſm of Man, or a Dialogue

logue between a Citizen of the World and an Inhabitant of Britain." Further, the faid George Mealmaker did, fome time in the courfe of the months aforefaid, at Dundee aforefaid, or fome other place to the Profecutor unknown, wickedly and feloniously diftribute and fend, or cauſe to be diſtributed and ſent, to Robert Sands weaver in Perth, one hundred copies or thereby of the faid *Catechiſm*, with orders to the faid Robert Sands to ſell and diſpoſe of as many of them as he could. Further, The faid George Mealmaker did, at Dundee aforefaid, and fome time in the courſe of the months aforefaid, wickedly and feloniouſly diſtribute to David Douglas, wright in Cupar of Fife, four copies or thereby of the faid *Catechiſm*: As alſo, four copies or thereby of the aforefaid paper or writing, entituled, "Reſolutions and Conſtitution of the Society of United Scotſmen." Further, The faid George Mealmaker did, on the 8th day of November 1797, or on one or other of the days of that month, or of the month October immediately preceding, or of December immediately following, at Dundee aforeſaid, wickedly and feloniouſly deliver to William White wright in Cupar of Fife aforeſaid, and Robert Bell weaver there, ſeveral copies of the aforeſaid paper or publication, entituled, "Moral and Political Catechiſm of Man, or a Dialogue between a Citizen of the World and an Inhabitant of Britain:" As alſo, ſeveral copies of the aforeſaid paper or publication, entituled, "Reſolutions and Conſtitution of the Society of United Scotſmen." Further, The ſaid George Mealmaker did, on the evening or night of the ſaid 8th day of November 1797, or on one or other of the days or nights of that month, or of the month of October immediately preceding, or of December immediately following, at Dundee aforeſaid, wickedly and feloniouſly adminiſter to the ſaid Robert Bell, previous to his delivering to him, as aforeſaid, the copies of the aforeſaid writings or papers, an oath or engagement, called the "*Teſt for Secretary*," (and which oath or engagement is adminiſtered to thoſe who are choſen Secretary to, and entruſted with writings belonging to any ſociety or club of the aforeſaid ſeditious aſſociation importing, "That he would in ſafety keep all papers and documents received by him as Secretary, and that he would not give any of them, or any copy or copies of them, to any perſon or perſons, members or others, but by a vote of the Society, &c."

The indictment being read, the pannel pled *Not Guilty*. The pleadings on the relevancy continued for about four hours. Mr Clark and Mr White ſpoke for the priſoner; and the Solicitor General and Mr Barnett for the Crown; but as their arguments were of a ſimilar nature with thoſe urged in the trials for ſedition in 1793, it is unneceſſary to enter into them. The Court pronounced the uſual interlocutor, finding the libel relevant to infer the pains of law, and allowing a proof of all facts and circumſtances that may tend to exculpate the priſoner, or alleviate his guilt.

The evidence of the Societies alluded to, calling themſelves *United Scotſmen*, their dividing into other Societies when they became numerous, their *Signs*, *Counter-Signs*, *Committees of Secrecy*, &c. as ſet forth in the indictment, were fully proved by ſome of their Secretaries, and other witneſſes. The declarations of the priſoner, before the Provoſt of Dundee, were alſo proved, although by theſe it appeared he refuſed to anſwer moſt of the queſtions put to him. One witneſs was committed to priſon for prevarication upon oath. The Lord Advocate, for the Crown, addreſſed the Jury with his uſual candour and ability, as did Mr Clerk for the priſoner. Lord Elkgrove ſummed up the evidence with much accuracy.—The Jury incloſed a little before four in the morning; and next day, returned a verdict, all in one voice finding the pannel *Guilty*.—He was accordingly ordained to be tranſported for fourteen years, under the uſual certifications.

15. This morning commenced the trial of Angus Cameron wright and architect, late reſiding at Weem, and James Menzies merchant in Weem, accuſed of ſedition, and alſo mobbing and rioting.

The libel ſtates:—That a riotous and diſorderly aſſemblage of perſons having, on the morning of the 4th day of September 1797, met at various places in the parith of Dull and coun-

ty of Perth, with the avowed and determined purpose of violently oppoſing and reſiſting the execution of an act paſſed in the 37th year of the reign of his preſent Majeſty Geo. III. cap. 103. entituled, "An act to raiſe and embody a militia force in that part of Great Britain called Scotland;" and having, in purſuance of the ſaid illegal and ſeditious purpoſe, gone to the dwelling-houſes of various perſons in the ſaid parish, and compelled them to join and accompany the ſaid mob, did thereafter, proceed to Weem, at which place the ſaid Angus Cameron and James Menzies, with a number of others their aſſociates, did wickedly and feloniouſly join the aforeſaid mob, and did take an active part in all their proceedings. And the ſaid riotous and diſorderly mob, among whom were the pannels, having ſurrounded the dwelling houſe of the Rev. Mr James Mac-Diarmid miniſter of Weem, and compelled him to join them, did thereafter, in purſuance of their aforeſaid wicked and ſeditious intent, proceed to the houſe of Caſtle Menzies, the reſidence of Sir John Menzies, one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the county of Perth, and which is in the immediate neighbourhood of Weem; and the ſaid Sir John Menzies having come out of his ſaid dwelling-houſe, the ſaid riotous and diſorderly mob, among whom were the pannels, called out, that they wanted a repeal of the militia act: And it having been ſuggeſted, that the ſaid mob ſhould return to Weem, and write out a petition, ſtating what they wanted, they, the ſaid perſons thus riotouſly aſſembled, fixed upon the ſaid Angus Cameron and James Menzies, or one or other of them, to write out the ſaid petition: But they having declined to do ſo, and inſiſted on holding a perſonal communication with Sir John Menzies, did accordingly, with the intent and purpoſe above libelled, bring back the aforeſaid riotouſly and diſorderly mob to Caſtle Menzies aforeſaid, their numbers at this time amounting to upwards of one thouſand; and being mоſtly armed with ſticks and bludgeons; and the ſaid perſons thus riotouſly aſſembled, among whom were the pannels, again called out, in the moſt violent and clamorous manner, that they would have no militia, and inſiſted that the ſaid Sir John Menzies ſhould write or ſign an obligation, importing that he would take no part in carrying the aforeſaid act of Parliament into execution; and threatened, that, if he did not do ſo, they would ſet fire to the houſe of Caſtle Menzies, and carry the gentlemen, who were there, priſoners to Athol Houſe: But the pannels, having thereupon propoſed that the ſaid perſons thus riotouſly aſſembled ſhould wait the arrival of another mob, compoſed of the Grandtully people; and the ſaid Grandtully people having ſoon thereafter arrived along with others, and joined the aforeſaid mob, making in all an aſſemblage of perſons of two thouſand and upwards, moſtly armed with bludgeons; did thereafter encourage and inſtigate the ſaid mob to inſiſt upon Sir John Menzies ſigning an obligation of the tenor aforeſaid. Accordingly the ſaids perſons, thus riotouſly aſſembled, did immediately, or ſoon thereafter, ſurround the perſon of the ſaid Sir John Menzies; and, by threats of immediate violence, did compel him to agree to their demands: whereupon a table having been brought out of the houſe, the pannels did thereafter write or cauſe to be written, on ſtamped paper which had been procured for that purpoſe, an obligation of the following import and tendency, and which was dictated by the ſaid Angus Cameron: "We the following ſubſcribers bind and oblige ourſelves, as we ſhall anſwer to God and man, that we ſhall, by every legal and conſtitutional means, adjoin our power, declare our deteſtation and abhorrence of the late act enacted in Parliament for levying a militia in Scotland: That we do hereby ſolemnly declare, that we ſhall uſe no forcible means to apprehend, confine, or impriſon, any perſon aſſiſtant whatever, who has appeared at Caſtle Menzies or elſewhere, or in any part of Perth on prior days. Further, That we ſhall petition Government for an abolition and nullifying of the aforeſaid act from the records of the Britiſh Parliament: That the members of Parliament for this county ſhall preſent this petition, or any annexed thereto, to the two Houſes of Parliament, to the Privy Council, during the prorogation of Parliament. This we ſhall do of our own free will and accord, as we ſhall anſwer to God." Which paper, written

and dictated as aforefaid, or one of a fimilar import and tendency, the faid riotous and feditious mob, among whom were the pannels, did thereafter compel various perfons then prefent to fign; and did further compel various perfons to take and adminifter to others an oath, importing that they would adhere to the obligation therein contained. In particular, the faid riotous and feditious mob, among whom were the pannels, who took an active fhare in all their proceedings, did, time and place aforefaid, compel the faid Sir John Menzies, Mr James Stewart Fleming of Kilbebafie, Joseph Stewart younger of Foss, William Stewart younger of Garth, James M'Donald minifter at Weem, and Archibald Menzies minifter at Dull, to fign the aforefaid paper or declaration: And did further compel the faid Mr James Stewart Fleming to adminifter an oath to the faid Meff. Joseph and William Stewart, James M'Donald, and Archibald Menzies, importing that they would adhere to the obligation extorted from the faid Sir John Menzies and figned by them as aforefaid. After all which proceedings the faid Angus Cameron did mount the pillar of the gate at Caftle Menzies, and did then and there, moft feditioufly and wickedly adminifter an oath to the people, that riotoufly affembled, to ftand by one another in thefe their illegal endeavours to refift the authority of the eftablifhed law of the country. Further, the faids perfons thus riotoufly affembled, among whom were the pannels, did, in purfuance of the fame wicked and feditious purpofe of oppofing the public law of the country, proceed to the dwelling-houfe of Alexander Menzies of Ballracks, parifh of Dunkeld, and county aforefaid, carrying along with them the paper or obligation, extorted and figned as aforefaid; and did then and there compel the faid Alexander Menzies to fign the fame; and William Menzies, younger of Ballracks, having refufed to fign the faid paper, he was dragged by the faid riotous mob to fome diftance from his father's houfe, and was at length compelled to fign the fame, but under a certain qualification which he then added, to which, however, the faid Angus Cameron made fome objections. Further, the pannels, together with the aforefaid riotous and diforderly mob, did, on the faid 4th day of September 1797, proceed on towards Ballechin, parifh of Logierait, county aforefaid, the faid Angus Cameron riding on horfeback before the faid mob, and acting as their leader; and an alarm having been given that troops were coming up, the faid pannels did then moft feditioufly and wickedly propofe, that the faid mob fhould go to Taymouth, and break open the armoury there, and alfo fecure fome arms which the faid perfons mentioned were at Glenlyon Houfe and Caftle Menzies; and the pannels, or one or other of them, did further fay, that, having got poffeffion of thefe arms, the perfons thus aflembled and armed need not be afraid of the troops, as they could retire to the hills in the day, and come down and attack the foldiers at night; thereby exciting and inftigating the faid mob to oppofe and refift, to the utmoft of their power, any military force that might be fent againft them. Further, the faid pannels, along with a riotous and diforderly mob, wickedly and feloniouſly furrounded the dwelling-houfes of various other perfons in the faid county of Perth; and did compel them to fign a paper or declaration of the import and tendency above libelled: and did befides aſſault and maltreat the perfons of various individuals in the faid county; and did, by force and threats, compel others of them to join the aforefaid illegal and feditious mob, and to take and adminifter an oath, importing that they would not be in any fhape aiding or aſſiſting in carrying the aforefaid militia act into execution; while others they compelled to fwear, that they would be true and faithful to the caufe in which they had engaged, meaning the illegal and feditious oppofition to the aforefaid ſtatute. More particularly, the faid Angus Cameron did, along with a riotous aſſembly of perſons, wickedly and feloniouſly furround the dwelling houſes of Dr Thomas Biſſet minifter of the parifh of Logierait aforefaid, and of Major Alexander M'Glafhan, in the parifh and county aforefaid; and did compel the faid Dr Thomas Biſſet and Major Alexander M'Glafhan to join the faid riotous and feditious aſſembly. And did thereafter, at Ptnagree, parifh of Logierait, and county aforefaid, compel the faid Dr Thomas Biſſet and

Major

Major Alexander M'Glashan to sign a paper or declaration of the import and tendency above libelled. And further, did compel the said Major Alexander M'Glashan to administer an oath to the said Dr Thomas Bisset, and to John Thomson constable at Pitnacree aforesaid, importing, in substance, that they had not been, and would not be, accessory in any shape in carrying into execution the aforesaid militia act; and which oath, administered as aforesaid, the said Dr Thomas Bisset and John Thomson were, by the said riotous and seditious mob, compelled to take. After all which, the said Angus Cameron did wickedly and seditiously address the said mob, thus unlawfully assembled; and did exhort them to be true and faithful to one another in the cause in which they had engaged, meaning their riotous and illegal opposition to the militia act; and did thereafter most wickedly and seditiously administer to the said person an oath to the aforesaid effect. Further, the said James Menzies did, on the said 4th day of September 1797, or on one or other of the days or nights of that month, or the month of August immediately preceding, or October immediately following, along with a riotous and seditious mob, wickedly and feloniously surround the house of Ballechin, parish of Logierait, county aforesaid, and did compel Hope Stewart of Ballechin, James Stewart, writer to the signet, and Capt. James Spence, to sign the paper which had been dictated, as aforesaid, by the said Angus Cameron, and signed at Castle Menzies aforesaid, or one of a similar import and tendency: And not satisfied with this, the said riotous and seditious mob, among whom was the said James Menzies, did violently assault the person of the said Hope Stewart at the door of his own house, and did drag him along the ground, and did strike him several blows with bludgeons, so that it was with difficulty he was rescued from their hands, and his life saved. Further, the panels having, in the course of the months of August and September aforesaid, conspired with certain other wicked and seditious persons, to the prosecutor unknown, did endeavour to excite rulings of the people from different parts of the country, in order that, having thus brought together a numerous convocation, they might carry still farther their illegal opposition to the militia act, and to the established law of the land; and, in prosecution of this wicked and seditious design, they did, on Sunday the 10th day of September 1796, or on one or other of the days of the said month, or of the month of August immediately preceding, or of October immediately following, go to the church-yard of Kenmore, in the county of Perth, and did there endeavour to excite the people to go on the next day to Fortingal, telling them that there were 16,000 men to meet there to oppose the militia act; and did endeavour, by all the means in their power, to excite the people to attend this wicked and seditious assembly; and they did, in particular, say to them, that those who did not go willingly would be forced. And further, in prosecution of the said wicked design, they did go to Kinlochrannoch, in the county of Perth, upon the evening of the said 10th day of September, and did there inform divers people that there was to be a meeting on the next day; and did utter many wicked and seditious speeches, tending to excite the people to attend a tumultuous assembly as aforesaid; thus endeavouring, as far as it lay in their power, to procure an illegal and seditious convocation of the lieges, in opposition to the public law of the country, &c. &c.

17. The Court met, and Cameron having failed to appear, sentence of outlawry was pronounced against him. When the sentence of fugitation was pronounced, the Lord Advocate rose, and stated, that as Cameron, who was undoubtedly the most guilty, had made his escape, he was induced, from the absence of a material witness through indisposition, and other circumstances, to move the Court to desert the diet against Menzies, *pro loco et tempore*. —The diet was accordingly deserted, and Menzies found bail to answer any charge brought against him for that offence within six months.

The month of January has been extremely stormy, from which great damage has been suffered at sea. The hands of the farmer have been tied up, from the wetness of the ground, so that little or nothing could be done in the fields. On the 30th and 31st, we had

a conſiderable fall of ſnow, which went off next day. The butcher market has been plentifully ſupplied. Beef and mutton 5d. and 6d. per lb; veal 8d. Herrings ſtill continue in the Frith and good. Haddocks ſcarce and dear. There has been little white fiſh during the month, ſalmon very good, from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb.

THE early ſown Wheats in England, have, from the mildneſs of the weather been much infeſted with the ſlug and worm, which a ſharp froſt alone can check. Bean ſowing has commenced in a few parts of Eſſex and Suffolk; but we think unſeaſonably. The young Clovers have ſtood the winter better than has been known for many ſeaſons paſt. The Turnips have not yielded the ſeed in moſt counties as was expected. The Meat Markets have been abundantly ſupplied through the month, though not of the prime kinds. Good Beef is growing ſcarce at Smithfield; but Mutton is ſtill brought up in plenty from the counties, though univerſally tainted with the rot. Veal is ſtill dear; but Pork continues its moderate price. Lean Stock of all kinds continues ſcarce, particularly thoſe ſheep which are warranted ſound. Beaſts are ſtill kept back, particularly of the Scotch kind. Low priced Horſes are not ſaleable on any terms. The Hop market is briſk again; but the Wool trade is duller than ever.

LISTS.

MARRIAGES.

Lately at Peterſburgh, Sir Charles Gaſcoigne, Counſellor of State to his imperial Majeſty, to Miſs Guthrie.

Jan. 1. At Drumnioral, Alexander Maclean, Eſq; of Mark, to Miſs Sally M'Taggart, daughter of the late Mr John M'Taggart of Drummeral.

— At Tinwald Downs, Wm Currie, Eſq; of Ironhall, Monmouthſhire, to Miſs Buſhby, daughter of John Buſhby, Eſq;

4. At London, Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Crawford Fergufſon, to Miſs Monro, daughter of General Sir Hector Monro, K.B.

— At Cork, Lieutenant Thomas Studdart, of the 2d regiment of Iriſh light dragoons, to Miſs Jane Catharine Ralſton, daughter of Gavin Ralſton of Ralſton, Eſq;

8. The Rev. Elliot Wm Davidſon, miniſter of the goſpel in the pariſh of Sorbie to Miſs Mary M'Taggart.

11. At London, Lieutenant Colonel John Rattray of Craighall, to Miſs Julia Simpſon, daughter of James Simpſon, Eſq; Chancery lane.

— At Campbelltown, Mr Thomas Pollock, merchant in Glaſgow, to Miſs Ann Maxwell, daughter of Mr Hugh Maxwell, one of the magiſtrates of that place.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 2. The Counteſs of Dalkeith, a ſon.

7. Mrs Souter of Mount-Pleaſant, a daughter.

9. Near Hamburg, the lady of Captain Walker, of his Majeſty's ſhip Monmouth, a daughter.

13. Lady Dunbar, Hempriggs, a daughter.

25. Mrs Deans of Huntingdon, a ſon.

DEATHS.

Jan. 2. Robert Hepburn, Eſq; of Clerkington.

4. George Nicol, Eſq; of Pleaſanthill.

5. At Banff, Mr William Gilbert, merchant, aged 82.

7. Sir John Sinclair of Longformacus, Bart.

7. At Duddingſton manſe, Mrs Bennet, ſpouſe to the Rev. William Bennet.

9. At Southampton, Major Lockhart Ruſſell.

— Mr Lewis Grant, miniſter of Cromdale.

10. Alexander Watſon, Eſq; of Turin, in the 73d year of his age.

13. At London, Lieutenant Colonel Gilbert Waugh.

— At Gifford Vale, Dr Robert Innis.

— At Brechin, James Keith, Eſq; collector of Excile.

15. At Edinburgh, Colin Campbell, of Kilberry, Eſq.

16. At Dundee, Michael Luke, Eſq.

Prices of Grain at Haddington, Jan. 26.

Wheat, 25s. Barley, 18s. Oats, 13s. 6d. Peaſe, 12s. 6d. Beans, 12s.

Edinburgh, Jan. 30. Oat-meal, 11d. Bear-meal, 10d. Peaſe-meal, 8d.

PRICES OF STOCKS.

Jan. 11.	Jan. 26.
Bank Stock	119 5/8
3 per cent. red. 49 1/4 3/8	48 7/8
3 per cent. conſ. 47 3/4 7/8 *ex. div.*	48 3/8
4 per cent. 59 1/2 5/8	59 1/2
India Stock ſhut	—
Engliſh Tickets —	—

THE SCOTS MAGAZINE.

For FEBRUARY 1798.

	Page
Afcent of Sap in Trees	74
Arancology	74
Account of the late J. Wilkes, Efq;	75
Michael Scott, the Friar Bacon of Scotland	78
Anecdotes of the late William, Earl Mansfield, *concluded*	79
Anecdotes and Gleanings	81—3
Extraordinary Story of a Friar	83
The Hiftory of Knowledge, Learning, &c. in Britain, *continued*	85
Eflay on the Neceffity of Civil Government	90
A Curfory View of the Origin and Progrefs of Agriculture	93
Dialogues of the Living, *concluded*	94
On the Love of the Marvellous	96
Reflections on Heads	98
Origin of Keltie	101
Picture of France, in 1778	102
An Eflay on Biography and Egotifm in Writing	102
On the Formation of Argillaceous Earth	104
Topography and Natural Hiftory of Scotland, *continued*	106
Extract from an Addrefs to the People of Great Britain, by the Bifhop of Landaff	109
A Chriftmas Tale, *concluded*	113
REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.	
Lord Monboddo's Ancient Metaphyfics	118
Burke's Memorials	122
Burke's Third Letter	123
Beddoes' Introductory Lecture	124
M'Nayr's Guide from Glafgow, to remarkable fcenes in the Highlands, &c.	125
LIST of PUBLICATIONS	125-7
POETRY.	
O wat ye wha's in yon Town, by the late *R. Burns*	127
The Simile Illuftrated	127
Prologue to the Caftle Spectre	128
Epilogue to the fame	128
Prologue at the Play given toward the contributions for the defence of the country	129
BRITISH PARLIAMENT.	
Houfe of Commons—Augmentation of the Army—Affeffed Tax Bill	130-9
Houfe of Lords—Affeffed taxes. Meffage from his Majefty	139-40
MONTHLY REGISTER.	
FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.	
France—Switzerland—Holland—Portugal—Spain	140-3
LONDON.	
Meeting of the Whig Club	143
Incidental Occurrences	143-4
IRELAND.	
Supplies voted in Commons	144
Lord Moira's motion in Houfe of Lords	145
EDINBURGH.	
Incidental Occurrences	145
Report of the Weather, &c.	147
LISTS—Marriages, Births, Deaths, &c.	148

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ASCENT OF SAP IN TREES.

M. COULOMB, ſome time ſince, cauſed ſeveral large poplars to be cut down on his eſtate. It was in the ſpring ſeaſon, and the ſap had begun to mount into the branches, which were covered with new leaves. As he was inſpecting the workmen, he noticed that one of the trees, on being cut nearly through to the centre, emitted a ſound ſimilar to that produced by air bubling from the ſurface of water. He perceived that this noiſe, as well as the diſcharge of a limpid and taſteleſs liquid, did not take place till the trees were nearly cut through to the centre. This led him to ſuſpect, that the ſap in large trees was only imparted to the branches by the medullary canal in the centre, with which the branches have a direct communication. To aſcertain this point, he cauſed ſeveral large poplars to be pierced with a borer, when it appeared, that, within a certain diſtance of the centre, the inſtrument remained nearly dry; but no ſooner did it penetrate to the middle, than a watery ſubſtance was emitted in great abundance, accompanied with the bubbling noiſe before mentioned. This effect was regularly produced on every repeated experiment during the ſummer, the ſound, as well as the liquid emitted, bearing a due proportion to the preciſe degree of heat, and conſequent tranſpiration of the foliage. At night, and during cold damp days, very little effect was diſcerned. From theſe experiments it ſhould ſeem, that the only circulation of the ſap in trees is effected by the parts which border on this centrical medullary canal, by means of the infinite number of horizontal *radii*, at the extremities of which the buds are formed, which eſtabliſh a ſucceſſive communication with the centrical canal. This communication, of courſe, augments in exact proportion to the growth of the bud till it becomes a branch.

ARANEOLOGY.

IT is well known, that many animals are influenced by natural electricity, and extremely ſuſceptible of every variation of the atmoſphere. Of theſe, none are more affected than the garden-ſpider. To M. Quatremer d'Ifgonval, aid-de camp general of the French and Batavian army, the world are indebted for the important diſcovery of being able to rely on garden-ſpiders, with as much, if not more confidence than on the cat-gut or mercurial barometers. The garden-ſpider, according to his obſervations, have two ways of working, according to prevailing, or rather future, weather. If the weather is to be rainy, or even windy, they attach ſparingly their principal threads, which ſuſpends their whole fabric, and thus they wait for the effect of a temperature, which is about to be very mutable. Spiders, like barometers, poſſeſs not only future, but a more diſtant preſentiment than theſe, concerning what is about to take place in the atmoſphere. A good barometer will fortel the weather until the next day; but when the ſpiders work with long threads, there is a certainty of having fine weather for twelve days, or a fortnight at leaſt! When they are idle, it denotes rain or wind; when they work ſparingly, it prognoſticates changeable weather; but when they work abundantly, it may be regarded as a ſure forerunner of fine weather. As ſoon as the ſpider is perceived inceſſantly renovating the web, deſtroyed by the continual effuſions of rain, it not only is a criterion of their being of ſhort duration, but alſo denotes a ſpeedy return of a greater permanence of fine weather.

THE SCOTS MAGAZINE,

For FEBRUARY 1798.

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE JOHN WILKES, ESQ.

THIS Gentleman, at one period of his life, obtained a very dangerous influence over the minds of the people; his name was ſufficient to blow up the flames of ſedition, and excite the lower orders of the community to acts of violence againſt his opponents in a manner ſomething allied to madneſs. After great viciſſitudes of fortune he found himſelf placed in a ſtate of independence and affluence; gradually declined from the popularity he had acquired, and at laſt terminated a turbulent life in a ſtate of neglected quiet. Reviewing the preſent ſtate of the country, and comparing it with that in which he began his exertions, though ſome advantages may be placed to his account, we heſitate in giving him credit for theſe beneficial conſequences which his admirers are apt to aſcribe to him. We believe he was a patriot chiefly from accident, a ſucceſsful one it muſt be owned, but not originating in principle.

He was born on the 28th of October 1727: his father was a diſtiller, who had raiſed himſelf from a low ſituation to affluence by his buſineſs, which he carried on in the neighbourhood of St John Street, near the Iſlington Road, where this is eldeſt ſon firſt drew his breath. Mr Wilkes the elder was a churchman, but Mrs Wilkes a diſſenter; and the perſon employed about the education of their ſon was a Preſbyterian divine. His early connections were therefore amongſt the diſſenters, and theſe were in ſome meaſure confirmed by an early marriage, before the year 1750, with Miſs Meade, daughter of the celebrated Dr Meade, a lady, who with her family, held the ſame religious tenets. Poſſeſſed of a genteel fortune, elegant manners, and a ſparkling wit, he eaſily obtained the acquaintance of many of the moſt faſhionable people of the age. Educated in Whig principles, he was at the ſame time an ardent aſſertor of Engliſh liberty. It was the latter circumſtance, indeed, that gave a colouring to the future purſuits of his life; to the former, he was indebted for a ſeat in parliament, and a regiment of militia.

A ſtanding army has always been conſidered as the approbrium of liberty, and a diſgrace to a free country. To counter-balance this palpable defect in the ſyſtem (for it is not inherent in our polity) ſome generous ſpirits conceived the idea of a national and conſtitutional defence. This plan, ſo long ſcouted, and ſince, in a great meaſure, emaſculated by ſubſequent regulations, was at length carried into effect, but not without much oppoſition, and conſiderable diſſatisfaction on the ſide of the people.

Mr Wilkes, who was a great ſtickler for the meaſure, made an offer of his ſervices in Buckinghamſhire on this occaſion; and as he lived in great intimacy with Earl Temple, the then Lord Lieutenant, he was elected member for Aylesbury, and colonel of the county regiment. It is to be recorded among the other ſingular anecdotes of his life, that nearly at the ſame time, he was expelled from

the one office by the Houſe of Commons, and diſmiſſed from the other by a mandate from the firſt executive magiſtrate.

The member for Aylesbury ſoon participated in the general reſentment againſt Lord Bute, and, poſſeſſing a happy talent for ſatire, contributed not a little to encreaſe the hatred which he had every where excited. But this was not all; in the bitterneſs of his reſentment, he accuſed the nation, among whom that nobleman was born, of an hereditary attachment to ſlavery, and, without much ceremony, attacked certain perſons, who fondly hoped that their rank was not only too lofty for plebeian animadverſions, but even diſſolved all connection between guilt and ſhame.

Mr Wilkes began his career, as an author, in 1762, and his firſt political publication, at preſent known with certainty, was entituled, "Obſervations on the papers relative to the Rupture with Spain." On the 5th of June, in the ſame year, he became the editor of a periodical paper of much notoriety, called the "North Briton," which gave a particular turn to, and not only influenced, the future progreſs of his affairs, but actually decided the tenour of his whole life. No publication that ever came from the Engliſh preſs was read with more intereſt, or circulated with greater avidity than this. Nor were the effects diſproportionate either to the end with which it was launched on the ocean of popular opinion, or the high expectations that were conceived of its ſucceſs. It was in vain that the miniſters attempted to oppoſe its progreſs, by means of the "Briton*," and the "Auditor;" the latter of which was conducted by Mr Murphy, a man of conſiderable parts, who, in the courſe of his variegated life, has defended the arbitrary principles inculcated by a Tory adminiſtration, and preſented us with a Whig verſion of Tacitus. His pen, however, on this occaſion, was made to drop from his hand, by the mere force of ridicule alone, and his journal itſelf expired in the flames of his own *Florida-turf*†. He, however, did not fall alone, for his patron ſoon lay proſtrate by his ſide; and although he was ſuſpected of regulating the motions of the miniſterial puppets long after he left the ſtage, yet ſo obnoxious had he rendered himſelf, that, from this moment, he was forced to bid adieu, at leaſt, to the oſtenſible exerciſe of power.

Lord Bute was ſucceeded by Mr Grenville, the father of the preſent Lord Grenville and the Marquis of Buckingham; who, partly from hatred to the author, and partly from animoſity to his own brother, with whom he had quarrelled (he is alſo ſaid to have been inſtigated by another motive) determined, if he could not ſuppreſs the publication, that he ſhould, at leaſt, puniſh the editor. The crown-lawyers were accordingly on the watch, and ſome unguarded, perhaps, improper expreſſions in No 45—for I write

* Smollet was the editor.

† Such as wiſh to be better acquainted with this inſtance of *literary jockeyſhip*, are referred to a note in p. 52, vol. 1, of Bell's ſecond edition of Churchill's works, or to the North Briton. Here follows the epitaph occaſioned by the diſcomfiture of the "Auditor;" and it may be neceſſary to premiſe that this event was produced by a waggiſh letter ſigned "*Viator*," in which the advantages derived from the poſſeſſion of Florida (obtained by the peace of Paris) are ironically pointed out, particularly the peats and turf, that were *to warm the poor American planters in the winter ſeaſon!*

SISTE VIATOR.

"Deep in this *bog*, the Auditor *lies ſtill*,
His labours finiſh'd, and worn-out his quill;
His *ſheets* extinguiſh'd, and his works unread,
In peace he ſleeps with the forſaken dead
With heath and ſedge, oh! may his tomb be dreſt,
And his own *turf* lie light upon his breaſt."

Et quocunque volunt animum Auditoris agunto
Hor.

not

not an eulogium—afforded ample opportunity for a profecution.

It has luckily been always the fortune of arbitrary councils, not only to render the means disproportionate to the end, but to have recourse to odious measures for the attainment of their object. It was this very circumstance, that, in one age, bereaved Charles of his life, James of his crown; and, in another, endeared Mr Wilkes to the nation.

Had a common action taken place against the editor of the North Briton, and, after due conviction, a moderate sentence been inflicted, Mr Wilkes would have been branded as a recorded libeller. It was the illegal proceedings which occasioned that gentleman to be considered as a suffering patriot, through whose sides the liberties of a whole nation were wounded. His, therefore, from that moment, ceased to be a private cause—it was the cause of the people.

In the month of April, 1763, he was arrested in the street, by a king's messenger, in consequence of a *general warrant*†, against the authors, printers, and publishers of the North Briton, No 45, and carried to his own house. The publicity of the act having occasioned much noise, he was instantly visited by a number of his *friends*, and, among others, by Charles Churchhill, a fellow-labourer in the political vineyard, whom he saved from imprisonment, by that presence of mind which never deserted him on trying occasions. In the mean time, he desired two other gentlemen to repair to the court of Common Pleas, and sue out a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, in consequence of his being detained a prisoner in his own house, by an illegal arrest.

As Lord Halifax did not choose to proceed directly to extremities, he sent several polite messages to Mr Wilkes, requesting his company: but the latter absolutely refused, and could not be prevailed upon to repair to his Lordship's house, until he was threatened with personal violence, and given to understand, that a regiment of guards would, if necessary, be called in. On this, he proceeded in a chair, attended by the messengers and their followers; he, however, refused to answer any questions whatever, and treated Lord Egremont, the other secretary of state, who exhibited too much of the insolence of office, in his demeanour, with great spirit.

On his being committed to the Tower, he was pressed to offer bail; but he strenuously refused, as it would have looked like an acquiescence in the injustice of the proceedings against him, although two noblemen offered to become sureties to the amount of 100,000l. each. In consequence of strict orders for that purpose, he was kept a *close prisoner*; and Earl Temple, and the rest of his friends, denied access to him, until two *habeasses* were issued, the first having been evaded by chicanery. At length, on Tuesday, the 3d of May, he was brought up to the bar of the Common Pleas, where, in an apposite speech, he complained of the violation of the laws, and asserted, that he had been treated worse "than if he had been a Scotch rebel."

The court having taken time to deliberate, he was remanded, and brought up once more, on the 6th, when the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Charles Pratt, afterwards Lord Camden,

† (Copy)

L. S. "George Montague Dunk, Earl of Halifax, Viscount Sudbury, &c.

"These are in his majesty's name to authorise and require you (taking a constable to your assistance) to make strict and diligent search after *the authors, printers, and publishers* of a seditious and treasonable paper, entituled the North Briton, Number 45, Saturday, April 23d, 1763, printed for George Kearsley, Ludgate street, London, and them or any of them having found, to apprehend and seize, together with their papers, and to bring in safe custody before me, &c.

"Directed to Nathan Carrington, &c.

(Signed) Dunk Halifax."

den, ordered him to be discharged. Flushed with this victory, in the course of that very night, he wrote a bitter and sarcastic letter to the two secretaries of state, in which, after recapitulating the circumstances relative to the seizure of his papers, he demanded the restitution of them, under the title of "stolen goods," and actually applied to Bow-street, for a warrant to search their houses, in order to recover possession of his property, which had been *feloniously* taken away. It may be easily supposed, that a magistrate, under the immediate influence of the ministry, refused his countenance to this proceeding; but recourse was soon had to a higher authority, and ample satisfaction received.

While Mr Wilkes was yet in the Tower, unlawfully imprisoned, and unconvicted, therefore, in the eye of the law, supposed to be at once innocent and oppressed, he was doomed to experience all the rigour of royal vengeance, having been actually dismissed from his situation of colonel of the Buck's Militia, by a mandate†, with which the Lord Lieutenant reluctantly complied. But this was not all; an attempt to disgrace, was soon followed by another, calculated to ruin him: it proved, however, contrary to all human calculation, to be the basis on which he erected the edifice of his future fortune.

In the course of next term, an information was filed against him, in the King's Bench, as author of the North Briton, No 45; and, on the meeting of parliament, being voted "a false, scandalous, and seditious libel," it was ordered to be burned by the hands of the common hangman; a sentence which was carried into execution, with much difficulty, in the city; when Mr Sheriff Harley, who displayed great zeal on the occasion, was mal-treated and even wounded by the populace.

Mr Wilkes having, in his turn, complained to the House of a breach of privilege, was not only refused redress, but a resolution passed, "that the privilege of parliament does not extend to the case of writing and publishing seditious libels, nor ought to be allowed to obstruct the ordinary course of the laws, in the steady and effectual prosecution of so heinous and dangerous an offence."

Some words that passed on this occasion, in conjunction with a passage in the North Briton, occasioned a duel between Mr Wilkes and Mr Martin, member for Camelford, and late secretary to the Treasury, which took place in Hyde Park, the 16th of December. The representative of Aylesbury behaved with great galantry on this occasion, and the wound he received in the groin greatly encreased the number of his partisans, who were pleased with his spirit, and considered him as a martyr in the public cause.

(*To be continued.*)

† (Copy)

"My Lord, Whitehall, May 4, 1763.

"The King having judged it improper, that John Wilkes, Esq. should any longer continue to be colonel of the militia for the county of Buckingham, I am commanded to signify his majesty's pleasure to your Lordship, that you do forthwith give the necessary orders for displacing Mr Wilkes as an officer of the militia for the county of Buckingham. I am, &c.

EGREMONT."

"To the Right Hon. Earl Temple."

MICHAEL SCOTT,

THE FRIAR BACON OF SCOTLAND.

MICHAEL SCOTT, the Friar Bacon of Scotland, was born at Balwearly, the seat of his family, in the parish of Abbotshall. He contributed in an eminent degree, to break the dark gloom which benighted the the tenth century. After pursuing with unusual success the study of languages, belles lettres, and mathematics, at home, Mr Scott travelled into France,